

**FEBRUARY 2014**



## Speaker in the SAARC Literary Festival

Tag: [Department of English and Humanities:](#)

Year: Friday, February 28, 2014 - 16:45

**Professor Firdous Azim** was a speaker in the SAARC Literary Festival 2014. On February 28, she reviewed the newly-launched title *Partition's Post-Amnesias: 1947, 1971 and Modern South Asia* by **Professor Ananya Jahanara Kabir** of King's College London. The book was co-published by Women Unlimited and UPL Dhaka.

## Student and Faculty Publications

Tag: [Department of English and Humanities](#)

Year: Friday, February 28, 2014 - 16:30



Ek Ronga Ek Ghuri, a publishing house, brought out an anthology with poems written by five budding poets including **Alvina Mahzabin Chowdhury**, undergraduate Student of ENH. 16 of

her poems were included in the anthology which is titled Nirbashito Josnadol. Columnist and writer **Anisul Hoque** launched the collection on the 7th of February in the Ekushey Book Fair 2014.

Whitened... a poem by **Mushira Habib**, Lecturer of ENH, and another poem Subtitle written by **Muhammad Mustafa Monowar**, Student of ENH, were published in monsoonletters: a collection of poems. This anthology of poems was published by UPL and launched on the 28th of February 2014 in the SAARC Literary Festival held in the National Museum.

## C3ER Team Visited Barind Multipurpose Development Authority in Rajshahi

Tag: [Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research](#)

Year: Friday, February 28, 2014 - 14:00



**Engineer Ahsan Zakir**, Executive Director of Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) invited **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and Advisor of the Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), **Mr. Nandan Mukherjee**, Director of C3ER and **Dr. Sajidur Rahman**, Coordinator – Informatics of C3ER to visit Barind project and its innovative activities. The team visited BMDA from February 27, 2014 to March 01, 2014. A seminar was held there on the activities of Barind where **Professor Ainun Nishat** shared few ideas regarding water management. BMDA, the largest state-owned irrigation providing organization in the country's northwest region, has taken the initiative of wide-ranging promotion of Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) irrigation method. As the underground water table is becoming lower, farmers in the vast Barind tract are being encouraged adopting water-saving irrigation method like AWD. They have established solar powered irrigation system at Barind Tract. They are providing buried pipe water from Padma River for irrigation leads to reduce use of ground water which results in efficient solution of irrigation problem. BMDA has conceived the method as an effort to keep the underground water table sustainable through less consumption of irrigation water.

# Study Trips

Tag: [Department of English and Humanities](#)

Year: Friday, February 28, 2014 - 12:45

## Visit to the Greek Theatre, JU

On February 13, Students of Eng114 enjoyed a study tour to Jahangirnagar University with a view to practically reinforce classroom learning. They were accompanied by Senior Lecturer **Rukhsana R.Chowdhury**.



The group was received by **Begumzadi Mehrunnessa Chowdhury**, widow of renowned dramatist **Professor Salim-al-Deen**. Some other teachers of the department were also present. The students got the opportunity to take a close look at the letters, photographs, and manuscripts of **Salim-al-Deen** at a museum dedicated to his memory. They were then taken to a Drama Studio to observe the mechanics of stagecraft.

Since it was Pohela Falgun, BRACU students were treated to a lively cultural programme performed by the students of the Department of Drama and Dramatics of Jahangirnagar University. The chairperson, Professor Mitu gave a warm welcome to BRAC students in her speech. The programme concluded with students being showered by flower petals.

**Professor Harun-ur-Rasheed** had prepared a special lecture for BRAC students, highlighting the various forms of drama being practiced in Bangladesh. He was very appreciative of the course contents of Shakespeare and Drama taught at BRAC University.

After a hearty lunch at the cafeteria, the students visited the replica of a Greek Theatre built by **Salim-al-Deen**. This helped them to understand the structure of the theatre in a better way.

## Trip to the Ekushey Book Fair

The students of Eng 115 went on a trip to the Ekushey Book Fair on the 15th of February. The class arrived on the book fair premises at the Suhrawardy Udyan around 11 am. They visited many stalls including "Onno Prokash", "Onkur", "Jagriti", "Ononna", "Afsar Brotheres", "Tamro Lipi", "Shomoy" etc. During the visit, they were briefed on some renowned works of literature. The students purchased lots of books. **Nawshaba Ahmed**, the course instructor, and **Hameem Al Ahsan**, Officer in-charge of Media Lab, accompanied them during the trip.

## North Bengal Trip



On February 28, 74 students of Humanities 101 went on a trip to North Bengal. They visited the ancient Buddhist Monastery situated at Paharpur in Naogaon, and the temple at Mohasthanghor, Bogra. They also visited the Rural Development Academy in Bogra. Professor **Dr Samina Sultana**, Teaching Assistant **Imtiaz Ahmed** and Teaching Assistant **Niamul Kabir** accompanied the students during the trip.

## Students presented their projects at K V Design Forum

Tag: [Department of Architecture](#)

Year: Friday, February 28, 2014 - 11:00

The K V Design Forum is an event hosted by the students of the Faculty of Architecture, CEPT University in which projects of students from various schools of architecture are presented and discussed. It is a forum for students to interact directly with a panel comprising of members of the architecture and design community. This year three students from BRAC University had been selected to present their thesis project in the forum. The selected students are- AbbasiKhanmPrinia, RubaiyaNasrin, UmmeaTasmin.

The Forum is not a jury or a competition. It is a platform to understand and identify, through dialogue, the diverse directions emerging in the architectural profession, and to reflect upon the varied streams of thought emerging amongst the student community. This year's panelists are- William J. R. Curtis, France; Carin Smuts, South Africa; Osamu Ishiyama, Japan; RafiqAzam, Bangladesh; Bijoy Ramachandran, India; ShirishBeri, India; EmreArolat, Turkey and Charles Correa.

The selected students went to Ahmedabad, India to present their thesis projects. The level of presentation was very high and the criticism and appreciation were valuable for the students. The projects from Bangladesh were highly noticed among other projects.





## Amader Bari Amader Moto (Our Home Our Way)

Tag: [Department of Architecture](#)

Year: Friday, February 28, 2014 - 10:45

'Pro-poor Slum Integration Project' (PPSIP), a joint effort by BRAC University, the World Bank, National Housing Authority (NHA) of Bangladesh, KMC, JA Architects and Manchester University. The objective of this project is to develop city-wide housing processes with/by/for the low-income communities.



Five towns were initially shortlisted for the pilot projects through an inception workshop in September, 2013. A team consisting representatives from the major stakeholders made extensive visits to the shortlisted towns. During the visits, the team met all the relevant city authorities like the Mayor, District Commissioner, the Town Manager from the UPPR project and community leaders to assess the willingness of the city authorities and the networking between the communities around the city. Based on the findings, Comilla was selected as the first city for the pilot program.

In the second phase, the consultant team from BRAC University is currently visiting existing communities intensively to select five communities to implement one of each interventions of in-situ upgrading, re-blocking, land-sharing and voluntary re-settlement. Grounding on the suggestions from the existing community network in the city, the team has already visited around 130 communities and made a prioritized list of 10 communities to initiate a city-wide network of communities that are relatively readier for the interventions. This city-wide network will be consisted of four other sub-networks centering on the contextual needs of specific areas of Comilla City.

Besides visiting the communities and meeting with community leaders, the team is also sharing their work process simultaneously with the city authorities and other partner organizations through workshops and meetings.

In the third phase, the social survey team and environment team will carry out detailed census in all of the 10 communities before the team of Community Architects finally starts working with the first five of the prioritized list of communities for the pilot project.



Participatory Rapid Appraisal at one of the communities



A community member is describing the map created by them



Sharing the community map of Comilla at the City Corporation



Coordination Workshop at Comilla involving all stakeholders, Secretary of MoHPW, Pro VC of BRACU, Chairman of NHA



Posters depicting common issues of the communities in Comilla to be addressed

# Special Event: Languages in Play

Tag: [Department of English and Humanities](#)

Year: Friday, February 28, 2014 - 10:30



The Department of English and Humanities of BRAC University has a tradition of nurturing creative efforts of their students by organizing inspiring programmes every semester. The event, Languages in Play: A Poetry Reading preceded by a workshop The Idyllic and its Reversals, was held on February 27, 2014 in BRACU auditorium.

Renowned as well as lesser known poets participated in the poetry reading session. Poets read out their work not only in Bengali but also in English and other foreign and indigenous languages such as Catalan, Kokborok, Spanish, French, and Urdu. They held the entire audience spellbound by their mesmerizing recitations.

Catalan poet Josep Almudever gave an enlightening speech on the literary history of the Catalan language and poet Asad Chowdhury spoke about the significance of our Language Movement and the role of poetry in firing the zeal of nationalism in the Bangladeshi youth.

The speeches were followed by an exhibition of student talent. The workshop participants wowed the audience when they shared the poems that they had produced during the workshop. The evening was rounded off by awarding certificates to the workshop participants amid thunderous applause!



# ESS Updates, February 2014

Tag: [Department of Economics and Social Sciences](#)

Year: Thursday, February 27, 2014 - 16:45

## **BRAC International Young Professional's Training**

**Conducted jointly by the Economics and Social Sciences Department and the Center for Entrepreneurship Development, BRAC University**

**Professor Syed M Hashemi**, in collaboration with **Professor Rezaur Razzak** (Center for Entrepreneurship Development) launched an eight week training program for BRAC International Young Professionals. These young fast-track management recruits came from Pakistan and several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The training program was intended to provide them with a broad overview of development issues, management skills, conceptual clarity and the communications competency necessary to address the complex problem solving challenges of BRAC International. The training program focused on:

- business management
- awareness of development issues
- effective communications
- an appreciation of and sensitivity to the lives of the poor and the powerless, especially women

The training started at early February and would be continuing till the end of April, with a four week field immersion.

## **Professor Syed M Hashemi Co-organizes the Global Learning Event on Graduation in Paris**



In Paris February 19-21, over 100 leading policymakers, practitioners, and development experts gathered for the 'Reaching the Poorest Global Learning Event 2014' to look at what we've learned so far from implementation and research on the Graduation Program, launched by CGAP and the Ford Foundation in 2006. **Professor Syed M Hashemi** had been one of the principal coordinators of this program -- a global effort to understand how safety nets, livelihoods and access to finance can be sequenced to create sustainable pathways for the poorest out of extreme poverty. **Dean Karlan** from Yale University, **Robin Burgess** from LSE and **Anasuya Sengupta** (ex researcher at the BRAC Development Institute) presented Randomized Control Trial findings and qualitative research findings suggesting significant proof of the graduation model. A major focus of the event was the participation of a large number of senior policy makers from different countries and development agencies who examined how the Graduation Approach could be incorporated into national and social protection policies in order to reach the extreme poor on a large scale.

**Sir Fazle Hasan Abed** was the key note speaker at the event which also included participants from BRAC and BRAC USA.

### **Presentation**

On February 3, 2014, **Dr. Sajjad Zohir**, Visiting Professor of ESS in association with **Anika Anjum**, **Nabilah Nawar** and **Raafi Zakaria** presented at a workshop on, "Women Labour Force Participation to Harness Demographic Dividend". The workshop was organized by the SEI Division, Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh.

### **Seminar participation**

Dr. Farzana Munshi attended the Public Lecture titled: "Beyond Education for All: Meeting the Human Resource Needs of Economic Development" by Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, on February 23. The lecture was jointly organized by the Institute of Governance Studies at BRAC University and The International Growth Centre (IGC), UK.

### **Workshop participation**

**Dr. Farzana Munshi** attended a workshop February 16-20 on National Accounts at the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

### **Brown Bag Seminar**

Two brown bag seminars were arranged by the Anthropology Collective at ESS.

On February 13, **Abdul Wohab**, a Ph.D candidate of University of South Australia presented his PhD proposal titled "A Game of Politics" in the Question of Muslim Identity in Bangladesh".

On February 27, 2014, **Professor Afsan Chowdhury**, Director of Advocacy and Human Rights, BRAC University presented a paper titled "The Root of Bengali Muslim Nationalism.

# Urban Governance: Roundtable Discussion Held in Chittagong

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: Thursday, February 27, 2014 - 14:45



The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) in collaboration with Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) organized a roundtable discussion titled 'Urban Governance in Chittagong: Problems and Prospects' on 26th February 2014 at CCCI Conference Hall, Chittagong. The discussion was organized with regards to the upcoming IGS State of Cities report, which will be based on Chittagong. IGS Research Fellow **M Shahidul Islam** made a keynote presentation on governance issues concerning the geography of Chittagong, the city's development constraints and possible urban operating model, focusing on how Chittagong can be made livable and economically potential for the growth of Bangladesh. The event was chaired by Mahbul Alam, President, CCCI.

The participants at the roundtable included members of CCCI, service providers of Chittagong city, academics, professionals, politicians, consumer association, journalists and students and team of researchers from IGS including **Mohammad Sirajul Islam** and **Nabila Zaman**. The discussion session brought forward governance aspects of Chittagong City from where a key observation included lack of coordination among the city governing bodies, notably, Chittagong Development Association (CDA) and Chittagong City Corporation. Concerns were also raised by majority participants on lack of proper public service provisions (gas, water, sewage, communication). The event was widely covered by the print media in Chittagong and Dhaka.

# MNS Updates, February 2014

Tag: [MNS Updates, February 2014](#)

Year: Thursday, February 27, 2014 - 14:45

## Inaugural Ceremony of the “Tenth Training Course on Oceanography: Principles and Applications

The Inaugural Ceremony of the above-mentioned training course was held on 15 February, 2014 at the auditorium of the Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka (AECD), Ramna, Dhaka. The training course was organized by National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI) with financial assistance from the Ministry of Science and Technology, GoB. **Architect Yeafesh Osman**, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, GoB graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. **Professor Naiyym Choudhury**, Vice-Chairman, NOAMI presented the welcome address elaborating on the objectives of the training course. The Chief Guest lauded the role of NOAMI in promoting the study of oceanic sciences in the country. **Professor A.A.Z. Ahmad**, Chairman of NOAMI gave a brief review of the activities of NOAMI since its inception in 1978 with specific emphasis on the training course on oceanography. The first ever training course was held in 2003. The ceremony was attended by the participants of the course, resource persons, NOAMI members, academicians and distinguished guests.

## Training Workshop on “Developing Research Communication Skills and Ethical Considerations”



**Dr. Aparna Islam**, Associate Professor of biotechnology programme participated as a resource person on a three-day long training workshop entitled ‘Developing Research Communication Skills and Ethical Considerations’. The workshop was jointly organized by Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) and INASP/AuthorAID (UK). Twenty participants coming from various research and academic institutions, including ICDDR,B, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Asian University for Women, Bangladesh and University of Science and Technology, Chittagong attended this workshop. On the third day **Dr. Islam** talked about the ethical issues on research publication. The session was very interactive and she answered to questions regarding authorships, acknowledgements and process of the publication. At the end of the workshop certificates were presented to the participants by **Dr. Md. Kabirul Islam Khan**, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, CVASU. The Director of PRTC, CVASU, **Dr. Kazi M. Kamaruddin**



and Professor AMAM Zonaed Siddiki, Director, Research and Extension, CVASU were also present on the occasion.

### **Visit to Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE)**



On February 20, 2014 a group of nineteen students and two faculty members of the MNS Department, of the Physics and Applied Physics programmes, visited the Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE) located at Ganakbari, Savar. They were greeted by the scientists over there and accompanied to see the various research facilities.

Subsequently, the team visited the nuclear radiation and health physics facilities which were very educative. The students and faculty members came back with a renewed hope for the advancement of research and development in science and technology in the country.

### **Visit to National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory**



Forty students of the biotechnology and microbiology programs along with two faculty members and one LTO (Lab Technical Officer) visited the National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory (NFDPL) of Dhaka Medical College on 20th February, 2014. They got to learn and observe the practical applications and implementations of highly advanced and effective National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory (NFDPL) which is well-equipped molecular level forensic laboratory. The visiting team came to know how different crime scenes were investigated successfully, like journalists Sagar-Runi murder case, Rana Plaza tragedy, many rape cases, identity tests etc.

## Annual Picnic of the MNS Department, Sonargaon, Narayanganj



The Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences organized the Annual Picnic on Thursday, 27 February, 2014 at Sonargaon near the Folk Arts and Crafts Museum and Panam City, Narayanganj. About 150 persons including faculty members, staff and students participated in the picnic. The participants, especially the students enjoyed a lot throughout the day. They visited the old buildings of Panam City and the Folk Arts and Crafts Museum.

## Appointment of New Faculty Members

Three new faculty members joined the MNS Department. They are: **Md. Akhter Hossain** in chemistry, **Zubaida Marufee Islam** in biotechnology and Namista Islam in microbiology.

# Revision Programme on Level-5 Diploma in Procurement and Supply

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: Thursday, February 27, 2014 - 14:30



A revision programme was held for the CIPS Level-5 Advanced Diploma in Procurement and Supply from 23 to 27 February 2014 at IGS, BRAC University. About 47 participants from Cohort 3 and Cohort 4 attended this programme. The purpose of this programme was to provide the revision of the contents of Level 5 course and to prepare the participants for the examinations

by discussing unit contents, past questions and examination techniques. This programme was conducted by **Dr. Tony Davis** and **Mr. Paul Robinson** from The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS), UK.

## IGS Researchers Attended Workshops Under NUFFIC Project

**Tag:** [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: Thursday, February 27, 2014 - 12:30

A workshop on Conflict Management and Negotiation skills was held as part of the Capacity Building for Promoting Governance project under the NUFFIC Programme from 2-5 February 2014 at BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. This workshop was organized by IGS, BRAC University with a view to train participants how to manage conflicts, how to improve negotiation skills and how a curriculum can be developed on this regard. Around 15 participants from IGS, BDI and BPATC attended the workshop. **Martien van Asseldonk** from MDF Asia facilitated the programme.

A second Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on e-Governance was held from 22-25 February 2014 at the BPATC, Savar. This workshop was organized by IGS as part of the Capacity Building for Promoting Governance project under the NUFFIC Programme. The purpose of this training was to capacitate a pool of designated BPATC and IGS lecturers to jointly deliver a well-structured, gender-sensitive introductory course on e-Governance in Bangladesh to a diverse body of students drawn from ICT professionals in the public, private and NGO sectors. Around 12 participants from IGS and BPATC attended the workshop. **Dr. Bas van Gool**, CIS-VU University of Amsterdam facilitated the training.

# Pharmacy Updates, February 2014

Tag: [Department of Pharmacy](#)

Year: Thursday, February 27, 2014 - 12:30

## Seminar Entitled “Scope of Pharmacy”



On the 27th of February, 2014 the Department of Pharmacy, BRAC University organized a seminar entitled “Scope of Pharmacy” at the department. **M. Azizul Huq**, Managing Director, GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh Ltd was the speaker at the seminar. All faculty members, distinguished guests and students of the department were present. Mr. Huq focused on the different aspects of ‘pharmacy’ as a profession in Bangladesh and worldwide. At the end of the seminar there was a ‘Question and Answer’ session where students and faculty members took part. The seminar was facilitated by **Dr. Eva Rahman Kabir**, Associate Professor and **Zara Sheikh**, Lecturer, Department of Pharmacy, BRACU. **Prof. Dr Md Shawkat Ali**, Chairperson, Department of Pharmacy concluded the seminar with a vote of thanks to the speaker, university authority, all faculty members, staffs and students who made this seminar a ‘success’.



# Paper presentation at the 19th NELTA Conference

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Languages](#)

Year: Thursday, February 27, 2014 - 10:30

Mohammad Rejaul Karim, Lecturer, BIL, has presented two papers at the 19th International Conference of Nepal English Language Teachers' Association (NELTA). The conference was held from February 27 to March 1, 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal. In his first presentation, titled "Handling correction of students' written works in large classes", he discusses some techniques that can be successfully applied in handling students' written scripts, especially in large classes. The second presentation, "Hornby Regional School: a platform for teacher development and resourcefulness", exhibits some specific practices that could be instrumental in managing situations in a large classroom scenario.

## TLC Updates, February 2014

Tag: [Teaching and Learning Centre](#)

Year: Thursday, February 27, 2014 - 10:00

### TLC in Support of FYAT Day

On February 1, 2014 Student Affairs had observed FYAT day for the first year students of BRACU under the FYAT (First Year Advising Team) Program. TLC played an important role in the organizing team of FYAT program through individual advising and material development. TLC members were present to conduct group meeting with the freshmen and also helped in data collection for a survey from all the FYAT groups.

### Faculty Conversation: follow-up workshop



The Faculty Conversation on 'Workload in Teaching: How do we manage?' was organized by TLC on February 13, 2014 in BBS Conference room. This Conversation program was organized for the faculty members who

participated in the 10th and 11th TLC workshop. 12 faculty members from MNS, CSE, JPGSPH, Counseling Unit and BIL participated in the workshop. The objectives of the session was to investigate the occupational stress experienced by the faculty, determine the sources of their stress, seek opinions on managing workload and the ultimate target was to provide opportunity for the faculty members for open discussion. Facilitators of the conversation were **Sabrina Syed** and **Muhammad Foyzal Mubarak**, Lecturer, TLC.

The session was started with conducting a survey to have an understanding of the participants regarding how they perceive their workload and how they manage it. It was followed by discussion on the responsibilities they have to perform in BRACU, when their responsibilities are considered as workload and some recommendations were taken from them. At the end of the session, tips were also provided to them on proper management of workload.

After the Conversation, written feedback was taken from the participants. According to their opinion, the discussion was very lively, topic was need based, the tips given in the session for proper workload management seemed very useful to them, got opportunity for discussion on professional development. They also expect proper initiative from the university authority regarding balancing workload.

### **Certificate Giving Ceremony for 11TH TLC Workshop Participants**



After the successful completion of 11th TLC workshop and several follow-up workshops as Faculty Conversation, the 18 participants of the workshop were finally awarded with certificates on 26th February 2014.

The program was held in the VC conference room with **Prof. Ainun Nishat**, VC, BRACU to commence the event with his warm speech that emphasized on interactive teaching and on the implementation of new ideas & methods from the workshop. After that **Prof. Ainun Nishat**, VC along with **Prof Fuad H. Mallick**, PRO-VC, and **Prof. Mohammad Zahidur Rahman**, Chairperson of CSE department gave away certificates to the respective participants. The event was then wrapped up on a friendly note with refreshments.

## TLC Organized Seminar for TFB (Teach for Bangladesh)



TLC organized a short seminar on 27th February 2014 which was facilitated by the members of 'Teach for Bangladesh', a non-government organization working for educational development. The program was attended by 22 faculty members from different departments of BRACU. The objective of the seminar was to introduce TFB, its notion and initiatives contributing to the betterment of education system in the primary level and also promoting job opportunities for BRACU graduates. The seminar ended on an interactive note with queries and suggestions from the participants to TFB representatives.

## Executive Director Meets Finance Minister Abul M A Muhith and Others

Year: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 - 11:00

In February, Executive Director of IGS-BDI **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** held several meetings with some distinguished personalities and prominent academics and researchers of Bangladesh regarding the research collaboration, capacity building and other relevant issues of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD). Among others, **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** had meeting with the Honorable Finance Minister **Abul Maal Abdul Muhith**, **Dr. Hassan Zaman**, Chief Economist of Bangladesh Bank, **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed** KCMG, Founder and Chairperson of BRAC, and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of BRAC University. Among others, he also held meetings with **Prof. Selim Raihan** of University of Dhaka, **Dr. Rizwanul Islam**, Former ILO director, **Dr. Shamsul Alam** from General Economic Division of the Planning Commission, **Dr. Sadia Afroze Chowdhury**, Executive Director, BRAC Institute of Global Health, **Dr. Farashuddin**, Vice Chancellor of East West University, **Prof. Christopher Woodruff**, Economist, University of Warwick, **Syed Akter Mahmud** from IFC, World Bank.

Executive Director Meets Finance Minister Abul M A Muhith and Others

# Attending “War and Colonies 1914-1918” conference

Tag: [Department of English and Humanities](#)

Year: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 - 10:30

On the 25th of February, students of Hst 102 attended the international conference titled “War and Colonies 1914-1918” which took place in the **Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury** Senate Hall, Dhaka University. Historians and speakers from across the world participated and attended the conference marking the centennial anniversary of World War I. The conference discussed the participation of the colonies in this war as well as its effects on the various colonies of the countries on both sides.

## Residential Semester Updates, February 2014

Tag: [Residential Campus](#)

Year: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 - 09:30

### Happy Reading Orientation



The Happy Reading Orientation programme was held on Monday, February 1, 2014 at the Markuli Hall. The session was inaugurated by Assistant Campus Superintendent, **Rehan Ahmed** and was conducted with the help of British Council, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The aim of this session was to initiate a reading habit among the students. During the session, the students attended a quiz and the winners received prizes.

### Parents’ Day

The Residential Semester Parents’ Day for Spring 2014 took place on February 1, 2014 in the presence of Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor BRAC University and **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**, Director, BIL.





During the day, the parents, primarily, enjoyed some time with their children on the campus ground. In the afternoon, a formal presentation, “Our Program Your Support”, was delivered by the BRAC University Counseling Unit in BRAC Center for Development Management (BCDM). The presentation offered important insights into the rationale of the campus and its objectives.

Following the presentation, **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor BRAC University and **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**, Director, BIL responded to parents’ and guardians’ questions and queries, emphasizing particularly on the objective and rationale of Residential Semester and its various co-curricular activities.



Furthermore, faculty members and staff member were also present on the occasion to listen to the parents’ concerns and convey further information about their specific roles and the nature of the RS.

### **BRAC, Museum, National Memorial visit and Social Learning Lab Orientation**

The orientation for BRAC Visit, museum and national memorial visit and Social Learning Lab (SLL) for the Spring 2014 semester was held on February 6, 2014. The orientation began with an integrated session which was mostly facilitated and coordinated by Assistant Campus Superintendent Rehan Ahmed. He introduced the students to the format of the visits and SLL and explained the rationale behind these programmes. The students were then put into smaller groups, divided according to the programme they would be participating in.

### **Public Health Seminar**

Public Health Seminar took place at Savar Residential Semester on February 22, 2014. The session was facilitated by the faculty members from School of Public Health (SPH), BRAC University.

The program was designed to familiarize the students with the concepts of ‘health and well being as well as some basic things over sexual and reproductive health’. Initially, **Kuhel Faizul Islam**, Senior Researcher, BIGH started with a combined session on ‘Health and well being’. The students were then divided into two groups (one group consisting of the all the male students and the other only of the female students). Each of these two sessions was conducted by **Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Dean, BIGH and Professor Malabika Sarker, Director, Research (BIGH). While one group attended the session, the other watch a documentary called ‘The Generation Walking up Experience’.

### **Deshi Khela (traditional local games)**



Driven by the idea to revive the spirit of sports and games amongst the residential semester students, a two day sport event was organized at BRACU Savar Campus on February 7-8, 2014. The sports events included a wide range of traditional Bangladeshi games, namely “kana machi”, “bou-chi”, “bosta dour”, “biscuit dour”, “golla-chut”, “marbel dour”, “jora dour” and etc. along with matches of Cricket, Football, Volleyball and Badminton. To authenticate the experience about a 100 children from the neighboring villages were invited to participate in the games with the students.

### **English Promotion at Savar campus**

The official launch of BRAC University’s English Campaign took place on February 25, 2014 in the Savar Campus grounds, which was decorated in colorful, motivational and educational banners and posters for the inauguration. The event was host to a number of distinguished guests, including **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, **Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick** Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, and **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**, Director BRAC Institute of Languages, BRAC University. Also present on the occasion were a number of the faculty members of RS and Mohakhali campus, Jovy Serjeant, Consultant, CSO and BIL, some BRAC University alumni and members of the Student English Committee. A number of representatives from the press also attended the event.

The aim of the English Campaign is to empower the students of BRAC University to compete globally by excelling in English. A special note on the proper use of Bangla, to ensure our valuable traditions and heritage are not lost, was also extended to the hundreds of students looking on.

The day long launch programme was organized with a wide range of fun games and activities all conducted in English. Notably, a Spelling Bee competition, poetry recitals and a song

performance about Savar campus preceded an hour of fun games in English that included Charades, Pictionary, and Hangman.

It is worth mentioning that the programme was deemed successful from the high energy and excitement displayed by all the students around the campus.

## Saraswati Puja

**Tag:** [Co-curricular Activities](#)

Year: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 - 15:00

BRAC University successfully celebrated the Saraswati Puja, to pay respect and pray to the Goddess of knowledge. It upheld the University's equal attention to all sorts of religious activities and thus promoted multi-diversity in its premises. It was held in BRAC University Auditorium with the presence of students and faculty members. Soon after all arrangements were made the Puja commenced and then came the Anjali. Everyone participated in the Anjali and prayed for a greater success in life. Right after the Anjali, the proshad was distributed amongst the people. After all formalities were done everyone enjoyed dance and music.  
Club Fair

## Cinema and Border Crossing: Women Filmmakers in the Subcontinent

**Tag:** [Department of English and Humanities](#)

Year: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 - 10:00

The February session of ENH Seminar Series featured **Dr. Esha Niyogi De's** talk titled "Cinema and Border Crossing: Women Filmmakers in the Subcontinent". The talk was held on February 24 in GDLN conference room.

**Dr. De** is a Fulbright Senior Multi-Country Scholar teaching at UCLA and researching cinema by women filmmakers of Bangladesh, Pakistan and India. She discussed the factors contributing to the empowerment of women film-makers (both directors and producers) in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan as contrasted with the Hollywood film industry.



Though women are traditionally portrayed as stereotypical images or objects typifying **Laura Mulvey**'s idea of scopophilia, women directors are challenging that tradition. For example, in **Aparna Sen**'s *Paroma*, she exploits voyeurism to critique the problems women face when they are supervised by male directors and the ways in which complacent Hindu middle class spectators become active participants of the patriarchal system. So, women directors and producers are working through a male-gaze-centered cinematic system to challenge the objectification of women, and they are not only crossing geographical borders but also those of patriarchal voyeurism.

## IGC and IGS Organized Public Lecture on Education by Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: February 24th, 2014



A Public Lecture titled 'Beyond Education for All: Meeting Human Resource Needs of Economic Development' was held at the BRAC Centre Inn of the capital on 23 February, 2014. The International Growth Centre (IGC) and the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University jointly organized the programme.



**Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud**, a member to the UN Committee for Development Policy and former Advisor to the Caretaker Government, delivered the lecture. Director of IGC Bangladesh Research Programme and IGS-BDI Executive Director, **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** chaired the programme, while BRAC University Vice Chancellor, Professor Ainun Nishat was present as the Chief Guest.\

Among others, former Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor, **Salehuddin Ahmed**, former Vice Chancellor of North South University, **Hafiz G A Siddiqui**, Daily Star Managing Editor, **Salehuddin Ahmed**, AmCham President, A Gafur, University of Dhaka **Professor Barkat E Khuda**, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Research Director, **Dr. Fahmida Khatun**, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Researcher, **Anwara Begum**, Education Expert at Australian High Commission James Jennings, Care Bangladesh representatives Tracy Evans and Jamie Charlibois took part in the discussion following the lecture. Academics, researchers, experts, politicians, representatives from think tanks and donor organizations, civil society members and students also attended the programme.

## Guest Lecture in Eng 440

Tag: [Department of English and Humanities](#)

Year: Monday, February 24, 2014 - 10:00

The Deputy Editor of the New Age, **Mir Ashfaquzzaman** spoke to the students of Eng 440 on the 23rd of February. He talked about writing effective editorials, op-eds, features, and letters to the editor. He also talked about news and the factors of news value.

## Commercial Trainee Recruitment for Philip Morris

Tag: [Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations](#)

Year: Sunday, February 23, 2014 - 14:30

Philip Morris in corporation with the CSO conducted a Commercial Trainee Recruitment program in BRAC University premises From February 16 to 20. Their purpose was to occupy 30 Interns from different University of Bangladesh. And, from those 30 interns 3 of them will be hired for Management Trainee Officer after 4 months of internship. Four days long recruitment process involved student registration, examination of the students and finally voting systems encouraging a good number of student participation.

# Field-visit of C3ER Team in Borguna and Pirojpur District to Identify the Source and Quality of Water

Tag: [Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research](#)

Year: Sunday, February 23, 2014 - 13:30



C3ER organized a field visit for the project titled “Access to Safe Drinking Water in Coastal Areas of Bangladesh” in greater Borguna and Pirojpur district On February 22, 2014. **Mr. Nandan Mukherjee, A S Moniruzzaman Khan, Roufa Khanum, and Minhaz Farid Ahmed** visited entire study area, conducted focus group discussion among the target group and prepared a resource and water source mapping. Afterward, **Minhaz Farid Ahmed** coordinated the entire field study. The objectives of the this visit was to identify the source of water supply in the selected districts representing the coastal areas of the country, assess the pattern of water use from different sources, and identify the impacts of anthropogenic actions on water quality. To satisfy the objectives, the field visit was designed for detail water point and household survey to identify different sources of drinking water. The representative household for questionnaire survey in the study villages was identified by considering the vulnerability in terms of access to safe drinking water and the GPS location of these household was collected in order to produce map of the study villages and the sources of drinking water e.g. tube-wells, ponds, dug-wells, canals, rivers, etc. in the study area were identified through GPS. During the seven days field visit, data were collected on water source that was taking place from the mentioned coastal areas. However, it was evident that, most of the household does not have sufficient safe source of drinking water. In addition, availability of saline and iron in the water, insufficient tube wells, improper maintenance and/or unavailability of Pond Sand Filter (PSF) and other vital issues that results in health hazard diseases like Diarrhea.

# **BRACU welcomes experienced academics, holding Ph.D degrees in relevant fields**

Tag: [Announcement](#)

Year: Sunday, February 23, 2014 - 10:00

BRAC University would welcome experienced academics, holding Ph.D degrees in relevant fields, to join the University. The working condition at BRAC University is highly congenial and the compensation package attractive.

Websites of the different departments/schools/institutes may be visited to see courses/programs being offered. The following departments/schools/institutes, which offer undergraduate and postgraduate programs, would welcome senior teachers:

- BRAC Business School (BBS)
- BRAC Development Institute (BDI)
- BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL)
- BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH)
- Department of Architecture (ARC)
- Department of English and Humanities (ENH)
- Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS)
- Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS)
- Department of Pharmacy (Pharm)
- Institute of Educational Development (IED)
- Institute of Governance Studies (IGS)
- School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS)
- School of Law (SoL)

Interested teachers may apply through email to Human Resource Department  
<[hrd@bracu.ac.bd](mailto:hrd@bracu.ac.bd)>

# First Cycle of the Noman Award for Excellence in Design

Tag: [Department of Architecture](#)

Thursday, February 20, 2014 - 18:30

Department of Architecture celebrated 'The Noman Award for Excellence in Design' on 20 February 2014. Through this event, for the very first time the department celebrated the best design from the graduating batch of 2013. The Award Giving Ceremony was followed by an Angan Lecture by Ar. Khaled Noman and an Exhibition of the shortlisted projects.



Khaled Noman AIA is an architect of Bangladeshi origin, living and practicing in Chicago, USA. He has generously provided an endowment to be used to recognize excellence in design for the students of architecture at BRAC University. The award is named after him and will be given once every year to the student with the best graduating design project. The Award aspires to enhance student's active participation in architecture design process by acknowledging outstanding studio projects. Final year projects will be short-listed by the respective Studio Teachers and a Jury Panel containing external critics will review and select the winning project from the nominated projects.

Six projects were selected from two final year studios completed in 2013. Nominated students were Emil Theodore Halder, Cyrus Sohrab Khan, Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury, Rafid Reasat Hai, Ummea Tasmin, Rubaiya Nasrin. Then a jury panel of high experienced professional architects have reviewed and selected the winning project by Rafid Reasat Hai and they also selected another project as jury commendation by Emil Theodore Halder. Professor Fuad H. Mallick, Architect Mahmudul Anwar Riyaad and Architect Md. Emran Hossain were the members of the Jury Panel.



# BRAC University celebrates Chinese New Year of Horse

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Languages](#)

Year: Thursday, February 20, 2014 - 17:00

20 February, 2014 witnessed a great Chinese New Year celebration programme at Indoor Games Room of BRAC University Building 3. The program was organized by the Embassy of People's Republic of China in Bangladesh and hosted by BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL), BRAC University.



**Professor Faud Hassan Mallick**, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**, Director, BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL), BRAC University, **Mr. Chen Shuang**, Cultural Councilor, Embassy of People's Republic of China in Bangladesh, along with faculty members of BRAC University, officials of Cultural Council, Chinese Embassy, faculty members and students of Chinese language programme from Dhaka University and CRI-SMF Confucius Classroom, and Chinese businessmen (who are representatives in Bangladesh) attended the program.

Students of BRAC University performed various joyous activities, such as Chinese songs, Chinese kungfu performance and Chinese poem recitation. In addition, some of the students, who have received Chinese government scholarships also came and shared their experience of learning Chinese language in BRAC University and their experience of living in China.

Notably, Chinese New Year, also called Spring Festival in China, is the most important festival for Chinese people and BRAC University has been celebrating this festival every year since 2009.

# Selecting Para-Counselors for CFPR-TUP Program, BRAC

Tag: [Counseling Unit](#)

Year: Thursday, February 20, 2014 - 16:45

Counseling Unit and IED of BRACU jointly took an initiative to recruit and train para-counselors who would deal with underprivileged children specially those who are drug addicted or sexually abused. To enlist appropriate para-counselors from February 18-19, 2014 two days recruitment activities were held at BRAC Center. At the first day counselors from BRACU University (**Sumaiya Anwar, Shami Suhrid, Safina Binte Enayet and Monzia Mustaq**) and IED held an introductory session. Then total participants were divided into four groups where in each group two facilitators facilitated the workshop. The discussion focused on street children, their life style during day and night, the risk factors and also what measures can be taken for their betterment. The spotlight of the workshop was to identify candidates who have knowledge about street children, who have good communication skills which is very important to deal with street children. Shortly after the workshop, a written exam was held where their reflection and management skills to deal with such children was assessed. On next the day, those who had been selected preliminary were called for interview. The board included a representative from HRD and Rozina Haque, programme manager, urban street children programme of TUP. Finally fifteen candidates were selected for the program.

# Director of C3ER Attended “Knowledge Sharing and Planning Workshop on Water Integrity” in Delft, The Netherlands

Tag: [Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research](#)

Year: Thursday, February 20, 2014 - 13:15



**Mr. Nandan Mukherjee**, Director of Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) was invited by Water Integrity Network (WIN) to participate a workshop titled on ‘Knowledge Sharing and Planning Workshop on Water Integrity’ in Delft, The Netherlands from 19th until 20th of February 2014. As part of the workshop they invited **Mr. Mukherjee** to share knowledge and experiences on water integrity and good governance issues and to find a way forward that helps to build capacities and share experiences in as structural way.

WIN combines global advocacy, regional networks and local action, to promote increased transparency and integrity, bringing together partners and members from the public and private sectors, civil society and academia, to drive change that will improve the lives of people who need it most. In the knowledge sharing workshop, WIN focused on mainstreaming water integrity in current projects and programmes. Participants explored existing tools to diagnose and improve water integrity and identify opportunities for applying them in different situations. Furthermore, the workshop aimed to lay the foundation for a water integrity platform to enable water sector stakeholders to exchange knowledge and experiences on structural basis.

# Sessions for Medha Bikash Students

Tag: [Counseling Unit](#)

Year: Thursday, February 20, 2014 - 09:30



Counseling Unit of BRAC University had visited Medha Bikash as their regular activity which is mainly 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 generally is divided into two segments. In the first segment, the Counselor provides a lecture at a class room setting where particular psychosocial issues are discussed. In this segment, different psychological issue 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 05, 09 and 19 of February 2014. This time 66 students had participated in different session, 39 of them were female while 27 were male. These sessions were conducted by Anjuman Ara Eva and finally group counseling sessions were done with the students who needed.

# Participation in a Seminar on Medical Humanities

Tag: [Department of English and Humanities](#)

Year: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 - 10:00

On the 17th of February, MA Students **Untara Rayeesa** and **Kazi Farzana Shoily** participated in a seminar on Medical Humanities organized by the School of Public Health. The speakers gathered to discuss the intersection between medicine, public health, various social sciences and humanities subjects such as history, anthropology, literature, and cultural studies. They presented a paper entitled “Representations of Medicine in Literature through the Ages”, looking at the way disease and health are discussed in English writing from Shakespearean times to the present.



# GAFBU's Visit to Pebble

Tag: [Office of Co-curricular Activities](#)

Year: Monday, February 17, 2014 - 15:30



Global Affairs Forum, BRAC University (GAFBU) paid trip to the factory of international toy-making company Pebble (Hathay Bunano) on Saturday 15th February 2014. With the objective of providing rural employment to Bangladeshi women, Pebble was established on 2005 by Samantha Morshed M.B.E. Guided by its operations manager Mohammad Rayhan Kabir throughout the trip, GAFBU came across the primary working models, experiences from its employees and explored Pebble facilities that provided training and also a daycare for the working mothers.

GAFBU's purpose was to assist its members to learn from Pebble that has been a remarkable international success story by being sustainable social enterprise.

# IGS Adviser Presented Paper on Governance at BEI- Canadian High Commission Seminar

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: Monday, February 17, 2014 - 14:45



IGS Institutional Adviser Barrister Manzoor Hasan presented a paper on 'Good Governance in Bangladesh: Problems and Prospects' at a seminar organized by Bangladesh Enterprise Institute

(BEI) in association with High Commission of Canada in Bangladesh. The seminar titled 'Good Governance in Bangladesh: An Agenda for the Future' was held on 16th February 2014 at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. **Dr. Gowher Rizvi**, Adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister on International Affairs was present at the seminar as the chief guest. Ambassador **Farooq Sobhan**, President BEI acted as the chair of the event. Among others, **H.E. Heather Cruden**, High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh, **Dr. Nazneen Ahmed**, Senior Research Fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development institute (BIDS), Professor **Dr. Abdur Rob Khan** of North South University and **Maj. Gen (Retd) Md. Shafiq-ul Islam**, Executive Director of Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) also made presentations at the seminar.

## Grooming and Etiquette Session at the Residential Semester

Tag: [Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations](#)

Year: Sunday, February 16, 2014 - 14:45

CSO conducted the Grooming and Etiquette session at the Residential Campus, Savar on February 15, 2014.

The session began with a welcoming speech from **Rehan Ahmed**, Assistant Campus Superintendant for organizing this session for the first time. **Later Rakshinda Huq**, gave a presentation on the overview grooming and etiquette and discussed each of the components relevant to the topic. **Zinat Fatema**, was also another speaker in the event and she added many valuable examples and tips during the presentation. **Kazi Shahnoor Kabir** concluded the session with an overview of the CSO. He also played an active role throughout the presentation by answering the students' queries and motivated the students to take notes. It was an interactive session and the students participated throughout the entire presentation.

## PSDP Classes Commence

Tag: [Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations](#)

Year: Sunday, February 16, 2014 - 14:45

The PSDP classes began in full swing with its first class on resume writing on Thursday 13th February 2014. A total number of 250 students from both business and non-business background have registered for PSDP Spring 2014. This time the cohort of Spring' 2014 semester is divided into five sections- two being dedicated to business and the rest is dedicated to non-business.

This time the advisors are **Kazi Shahnoor Kabir**, Executive, **Shanzida Shahab Uddin**, Executive, **Rakshinda Huq**, Officer and **Zinat Fatema**, Asst. Officer.

# IGS-BDI Executive Director Attended PPRC Annual Report Launching

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: Sunday, February 16, 2014 - 14:45

The Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) recently launched its first annual report on the state of governance in Bangladesh titled 'Bangladesh 2013: Governance Trends and Perceptions', held on 15 February 2014 at the BILIA auditorium in Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

The report has been prepared on the basis of departmental data on police and judiciary and a household survey of Dhaka city. **Professor Rehman Sobhan**, Chairman Centre for Policy Dialogue was present as the Chief Guest of the ceremony. **M. Hafizuddin Khan**, former advisor to the Caretaker Government, **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman**, IGS-BDI Executive Director, Advocate Rizwana Hasan, Director BELA and Farah Kabir, Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh were present as the designated discussants. **Dr. Akbar Ali Khan**, former advisor and Resource Person, PPRC Governance Study presided over the ceremony.

## Seminar on Awareness on Drug Dependency

Tag: [Counseling Unit](#)

Year: Saturday, February 15, 2014 - 16:45



On February 14, 2014 Counseling Unit arranged a seminar for the students of residential campus titled "Awareness on Drug Dependency" to build awareness about the devastating impacts of drugs. Renowned psychologist **Farida Akhter** facilitated the seminar. **Zahid Iqbal**, a recovered addict and also program officer at Ahsania Mission Dhaka described and shared his feeling about drugs, impacts of drug abuse within the person, family and society at large and how to recover the aftermaths.

**Farida Akhter** conveyed some valuable tips for drug dependency prevention. Students took the seminar very positively which was expressed in the question and answer session and also by their feedbacks. The seminar was closed with taking Oath by all the students to say “NO” to drugs.

## MAGD News: Courses in February 2014

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: Saturday, February 15, 2014 - 14:15



In February 2014, Master in Governance and Development (MAGD) programme offered the module titled 'Strategic Management' for the students. This course was conducted on a block teaching method by **Dr. Quamrul Alam**, an Associate Professor of the Department of Public Policy and Management, Monash University in Australia. The final examination for this module was held on 13 February 2014. Apart from the academic sessions, individual sessions on Research and SPSS were conducted by IGS Director **Dr. Rizwan Khair** and MAGD Academic Coordinator **Dr. Md. Zohurul Islam**. Students are also concentrating on their Masters Thesis under the supervisions of their respective supervisor.

## IGS Staff attended Workshop in Nepal on Policy Engagement and Communications

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Governance and Development](#)

Year: Saturday, February 15, 2014 - 13:30

**Ekram Hossain**, Project Manager (Communications); **Nuzhat Jabin**, Programme Manager, Affiliated Network on Social Accountability-South Asia (ANSA); and **Kazi Niaz Ahmed**, Research Assistant attended a two day workshop on Policy Engagement and Communication (PEC) held at the Park Village Hotel and Resort in Kathmandu, Nepal on 11 and 12 February



2014. **Dr. Faruk Ul-Islam** from Practical Action, Bangladesh acted as the local facilitator for the IGS team. A total of sixteen participants from five Think Tanks from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh attended the workshop. Initiated by the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) led by IDRC, and jointly organized by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK and Practical Action Consulting, South Asia Office, Nepal, the workshop focused on developing a communications strategy and plan for each of the participant Think Tanks. Sessions on the strategic planning process, organization capacity assessment, situational analysis, identifying audiences and appropriate communications pathways etc. were held. Facilitators from IDS conducted the various sessions of the workshop.

## “CLUBS ROYALE” Club Fair Spring’14

Tag: [Office of Co-curricular Activities](#)

Year: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 - 15:00



On 9th February 2014 BRAC University observed “Clubs Royale”, a Vegas themed mega-scale entertainment package organized by BRAC University Film Club (BUFC). The event was inaugurated by **Mr. Khan Ahmed Murshid**, Joint Registrar, BRAC University and **Lady Sarwat Abed**, Director at BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) who visited the booths and inquired about the status of the clubs and their involvement in co-curricular activities. The partners of “CLUBS ROYALE” event were Janata Bank, HungryNaki, Off Track, Channel i, BanglaNews24.com, Radio Shadhin 92.4 FM, Shomoy TV, Star Cineplex, Daily Samakal, Dhaka Tribune and Bellissimo. In addition to club booths the attractions included wheel of fortune, slot machines, DJ floor, eating contest, games, club t-shirts, complementary candy, etc.

# C3ER and DECC, BRAC Jointly Visit Barisal Division for “Climate Smart BRAC” Project

Tag: [Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research](#)

Year: Thursday, February 6, 2014 - 12:45



Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), BRAC University and Disaster, Environment and Climate Change (DECC), BRAC visited Barisal for reconnaissance visit for “Moving towards Climate Smart BRAC: Strategies and Action Plans in District Level” from 31st January to 5th February of 2014. The C3ER team consisted of **Prof. Ainun Nishat**, **Mr. Nandan Mukherjee**, **A S Moniruzzaman Khan**, **Roufa Khanum** and **Md. Reaz Uddin Khan** whereas **Dr Babar Kabir**, **Miriam A Kennedy Khan** and **Moyen Uddin Ahmmed** were from DECC, BRAC Team. The initial field visit covered many areas including experts’ presentation and common discussion, dialogue with staffs and clients of different BRAC programmes. In the first phase, the presentation and common discussion session was executed by **Prof. Ainun Nishat**, Advisor of C3ER, BRACU at Banaripara, BRAC office. **Dr Babar Kabir**, Senior Director, WASH and DECC programme of BRAC was also present there. BRAC staffs from different programmes of Barisal districts were invited in this session. After the presentation, **Mr. Nandan Mukherjee**, Director, C3ER facilitated a common discussion session with BRAC staffs. The objectives of the session were to discover the major disasters and its impact in the study area (Banaripara, Barisal) and to know the current activities under each BRAC programme. The third phase of the visit was conducted by **A S Moniruzzaman Khan**, Coordinator – Research, C3ER which covered Programme specific discussion with BRAC clients at BRAC office, Patuakhali. The objective of the meeting was to find out the types of facilities under different programmes, the gaps of those programmes for fulfilling targets and benefits, the major disaster of the programme area, the way the clients or the programmes are being affected by disasters and the features or facilities BRAC can take into account to make their programme more climate resilient.

# IGS Seminar on The Politics of Foreign Policy Making in India

Year: Thursday, February 6, 2014 - 12:15



Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University organized a seminar titled ‘The Politics of Foreign Policy Making in India: Importance and Implications of Constituent Diplomacy’ on 5 February at the Vice Chancellor’s Conference room, BRAC University. Aligarh Muslim University Academic **Dr. Upendra Choudhury** addressed as the keynote speaker and IGS-BDI Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman chaired the seminar. The seminar was attended by among others, **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director of Academics, IGS, **Mirza M Hassan**, Lead Researcher, BDI; **M. Shahidul Islam**, Research Fellow of IGS; **Mohammad Rasheduzzaman**, **Sohela Naznin**, and **Lailufar Yasmin** from Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka and some other researchers and staff from IGS.

## Pitha utshob

Tag: [Office of Co-curricular Activities](#)

Year: February 5th, 2014



BRAC University Heritage Forum organized “Pitha Utshob” on 3rd February, 2014 in BRACU auditorium. The event provided the students with a platform to interact with each other and to

experience Bengali culture. Several members of the club brought in homemade pithas. Around 24 types of delicious pithas were sold and they are: bhapa pitha, patisapta, dudh puli, chittoi pitha, chocolate cake, custard cake, jhal pitha, shahi tukra, payesh etc. Moreover, every member of the club was dressed in traditional clothes; ladies in sarees and the men were in panjabis. The popular Bangla songs added more delight to the enthusiasm of the pitha utshob. As heritage forum aims at to preserve our culture, this pitha festival gave an opportunity to celebrate our age-old tradition of winter pitha festivals.

## Parents Day: Our Program and Your Support

Publish Date:

Tuesday, February 4, 2014 - 16:00



On February 01, 2014 BRAC University Counseling Unit organized a workshop titled “Our program and your support” with around seven hundred and fifty parents/guardians of RS 35th batch students. The workshop was mainly facilitated by counselor **Sumaiya Anwar**. **Safina Enayet** and **Monzia Mushtaq** were co-facilitators of the workshop.



The positive outcomes from the event were particularly significant; as this was the first time that the Counseling Unit was supported by important contributions from two particularly notable figures: **Professor Ainun Nishat** (Vice Chancellor BRAC University) and **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed** (Director of BIL).



**Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed** opened the session by welcoming parents and guests and gave the floor to the Counseling Unit to proceed on. The particular attention was to convey the objectives and rationales of Residential Semester and relate it to the parents' role how they can make their children independent by this program. Besides, psychological changes in adolescence period were described and parents' role and how they can cooperate with their children were also discussed at the session. At the end of the session, Vice Chancellor, Professor Ainun Nishat responded to guardians' questions.

Parents, guardians and students shared their thoughts and feelings with each other after the session. Some of the faculty members and staff were also on hand to listen compassionately and conveyed information about their specific roles and the nature of the RS more generally i.e. its curriculum, activities and disciplinary code. Overall it was a successful initiative by BRAC University to make the bridge between parents' role and university responsibilities for the betterment of the students.

## **Radio Foorti's RJ Hunt at BRACU**

**Tag:** [Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations](#)

Year: February 4th, 2014

On February 3, 2014 Radio Foorti, MGH in cooperation with the CSO conducted a RJ Hunt session. Over a 100 students registered and auditioned for the opportunity where they were given a minute each to perform and prove themselves. After the audition round only 8 of the participants were selected for the next round. The final round will be held at Radio Foorti's office.

**Kazi Shahnoor Kabir**, CSO Executive and **Rakshinda Huq**, CSO Officer were judges in the event along with **RJ Nusrat**, **RJ Sadia**, **RJ Apu** and **Muhammed Rezaul Huq**, Director and COO from Radio Foorti, MGH.



# ToT on "English Language for Midwives"

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Languages](#)

Year: February 4th, 2014

BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) conducted a two-week long Training of Trainers (ToT) on "English Language for Midwives" for the trainers of the Midwifery Program under BRAC Institute of Global Health (BIGH). The course started on January 20, 2014 and ended on February 4, 2014. Mohammad Aminul Islam, Mohammad Golam Mohiuddin and Julhas Uddin, faculty members of BIL conducted the training sessions.



The objectives of the course were to impart Language Teaching Pedagogy and to introduce the English Modules developed by BIL. It is to be noted that the participants of the ToT will conduct English Language sessions for the Midwifery Program – a three-year-long modular course for Midwives.

Apart from the regular sessions, participants had to conduct a mini research on various health related issues and present these in the presence of Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Director, BIL. Lady Abed also addressed the trainees, emphasizing on the importance of better implementation of the modules at the field level.

# BUGMUN 2014

Tag: [Office of Co-curricular Activities](#)

Year: February 1st, 2014



The Model United Nations scene in Bangladesh has seen some rapid growth over the last few years but BRAC University Global Model United Nations (BUGMUN) 2014, held from 17th to 21st January, 2014, had superseded all its predecessors. Attended by over 410 students and young professionals as delegates and executive board members from Bangladesh as well as other countries like Costa Rica, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Indonesia and India, BUGMUN 2014 was a vibrant conference that has become the new epitome of MUN-ing in Bangladesh. The theme of the conference was “POST 2015: Envisioning a better future for the world.”