

APRIL 2014



Workshop held on Gender Dynamics in the Labour Market in Bangladesh

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

Year: April 30th, 2014



April 2014 marks the commencement of the three year research on "*Gender dynamics in the labor market in Bangladesh: a puzzle and a challenge*" to be conducted in partnership between the Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST), BIGD, Gender Institute, LSE and the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, led by **Ms. Simeen Mahmud**, **Professor Naila Kabeer** and **Professor James Heintz** respectively.

The research program was initiated with a workshop held at the BRAC Centre Inn Conference Room on 30th April 2014, which presented the findings of the previous work survey carried out

by CGST in 2008 and the proposal for the current research program. Fifty five participants representing various constituencies, who have an interest in the topic, joined the workshop, including employers (BGMEA), trade unionists (Bangladesh Jatiyo Sramik Forum, Awaj Foundation), ministries (MoWCA), development NGOs (BNPS, BLAST, BRAC, Karmojibi Nari, Nijera Kori, Nari Uddyog, OSHE Foundation, CARE, IOM, Nari Maitree), donors (DFID, UNDP, Manusher Jonno Foundation, AusAid), international agencies (OXFAM, GIZ, Concern Worldwide, Population Council, British Council), women's groups (Naripokkho) and the research community (BIDS, BILS, CPD, ICDDR,B).

Other preparatory work for the research, including internal workshops completed by the research team, qualitative guideline preparation and field testing were also carried out during this month.

Certificate awarding ceremony for 12th TLC workshop participants

Tag: [Teaching and Learning Centre](#)

Year: April 30th, 2014



After the successful completion of 12th TLC workshop and several follow-up workshops as Faculty Conversation, the 28 participants of the workshop were finally awarded with certificates on 29th April, 2014.

The program was held in the VC conference room with **Prof Fuad H. Mallick**, PRO-VC, opening the program with his warm speech and later interacting with the participants to share their post-workshop experience after implementing the training techniques with their students and the academic/pedagogic issues they faced. After brief discussion certificates were handed over to the respective participants. The event was then wrapped up on a friendly note with refreshments.

BIGD Lead Researchers Presented Papers at ESID workshop in Cape Town, South Africa

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

Year: April 30th, 2014

Dr. Sohela Nazneen, Lead Researcher, BIGD spoke at a public seminar on 'Making States Work' organized by the Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice (GSDPP), University of Cape Town, South Africa on April 29, 2014. She focused on how and when states deliver to women and on gender equity. The Panel was jointly hosted by GSDPP and the Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID) RPC based at the University of Manchester. **Professor David Hulme, Professor Samuel Hickey and Professor Diana Mitlin** also spoke on the Panel and it was chaired by **Professor Alan Hirsch**. It is worth mentioning that, BIGD is a partner in the ESID program.

Dr. Mirza Hassan and **Dr. Sohela Nazneen**, Lead Researchers of BIGD were at a midterm review conference of the Effective States and Inclusive Development RPC in Cape Town, South Africa. **Dr. Hassan** presented his paper on the politics of social provisioning in Bangladesh and **Dr. Nazneen** presented on how women's political empowerment is influenced by existing political settlement--analyzing four country cases: Uganda, Rwanda, Ghana and Bangladesh.

Meditation workshop

Tag: [Counseling Unit](#)

Year: April 30th, 2014



Meditation helps us to bring joy, happiness and the ultimate peace- the most important thing of our life which we sometimes ignore for the rush we are in generally in our everyday life.

Through slowing down and controlling the mind, meditation increases consciousness of not just our surroundings and what's happening around us but more importantly it creates an awareness of our inner selves. It helps us to calm our mind and body and by practicing it we can reduce our stress and anxiety level also.

That is why Counseling Unit of BRACU organized a workshop on "Meditation" on 29th April, 2014 to help connect the inner world of thoughts, feelings and ideas to the outer world of actions and relationships. Different staff members of BRACU for example from HR, Accounts, RMO, TLC, CSO, OCA, FYAT advising team, and Registrar office were present and enjoyed the one hour meditation.

Sumaiya Anwar, Psychosocial Counselor and Lecturer started the session with the introductory speech and gave brief overview of why meditation is important for us. **Saleh Siddique** proceeded on by "Progressive muscular relaxation" and then Safina Binte Enayet another member of counseling unit practiced deep breathing with the participants. Both of those were helpful for relaxing mind and body and useful for releasing stress.



For deep connection with time and a heightened awareness of our self in conjunction with everything around us Anne Anthonia Baroi applied "Mindfulness Sound Meditation". To slow down and find the sweet moments of inner calm and clarity, another relaxation technique "Butterfly Hug" was used.



Last of all, for increasing self-esteem and self-love Monzia Mustaq used some positive affirmation to raise the mental strength of the participants. Workshop ended with evaluation and

taking feedback for further improvement. All things closed with lots of thanks. BRACU Counseling Unit aims to support an environment that fosters personal growth, development, and psychological wellbeing and for which workshop was conducted and wish to continue for further.

OpEd by BIGD Staff

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

Year: April 29th, 2014

The Daily Star: Constitutional Safeguard and Democratic Local Governance, 28 April 2014, **Rafiqul Islam Talukder**, Senior Programme Manager, BIGD.

The 27th Annual Conference of the Bangladesh Society of Microbiologists

Tag: [Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences](#)

Year: April 28th, 2014

The Twenty-seventh Annual Conference of the Bangladesh Society of Microbiologists was held on 27 April, 2014 at the Department of Microbiology, University of Dhaka. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury**, and **Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain** attended the Conference. The theme of the Conference was “Microbes and Industrial Development: Bangladesh Perspectives”. **Architect Yeafesh Osman**, State Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, GoB was the Chief Guest and Professor **AAMS Arefin Siddique**, Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka was the Special Guest in the inaugural ceremony. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** chaired the plenary session of the Conference in which two keynote presentations were made. A good number of scientific papers giving the research findings were presented in the Conference by the scientists and academics of different research organizations and universities. In the afternoon, AGM of the Society and election of the new office bearers took place. **Dr. Mahboob Hossain** was elected as a Member of the Executive Committee for 2014-2015.

Celebrating Boishakh

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Languages](#)

Year: April 28th, 2014



On April 27, 2014, BIL celebrated the Bengali New Year by organizing a feast of traditional food and a get together of all its faculty members. The purpose of this festive occasion was to reinforce the team spirit and bonding within the institute.

Pharmacy Updates

Tag: [Department of Pharmacy](#)

Year: April 26th, 2014

On the 24th of April, 2014, the Department of Pharmacy organized a seminar titled 'Cross Contamination: Role of In-process Control' at the University Auditorium. **Dr. Sayma Ali**, Head of Manufacturing, Renata Limited was the key note speaker and presented a very informative speech. **Dr. Eva Rahman Kabir**, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy, BRAC University welcomed everyone at the seminar and **Zara Sheikh** and **Nishat Zareen Khair**, Lecturer, Department of Pharmacy, BRAC University were the facilitators of the seminar. All faculty members and students were present at the seminar and at the end of seminar there was a 'Questions and Answer' session. Professor **Dr. Md. Shawkat Ali**, Chairperson, Department of Pharmacy, BRAC University concluded the seminar with vote of thanks and acknowledged the speaker, university authority, faculty members and students who made this seminar a great 'success'.



Dr. Sayma Ali is currently the Head of Manufacturing, Renata Limited. She did her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology from Coventry University, U.K. in 2005. Earlier she was engaged as a part time lecturer at Cell and Molecular Biosciences, School of Science and the Environment, Coventry University, U.K. from 2000 to 2005. She worked as a Senior Quality Control Officer from 1996 to 1998 and Technical Services Officer from 1993 to 1995 at Beximco Pharmaceutical Limited. She has also worked as a senior Executive at Hoffmann-La Roche, Bangladesh for a short period in 2000.

Seminar on Genome Sequence

Tag: [Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences](#)

Year: April 26th, 2014

On 24 April 2014, a seminar titled 'Sequencing a genome' was held in Room UB21511 of the MNS. The speaker of the session was **Mr. Ehtesham Mofiz**, a PhD candidate at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, University of Melbourne, Australia. **Mr. Ehtesham Mofiz** first talked about the importance of genome sequencing in the field of personalized medicine, an advanced concept based on genomics which might help to treat chronic diseases in the near future. Evidence-based medical decisions could be taken in target treatments with the help of the genomic data of the patients. Later, he discussed about the different technologies of genome sequencing. He finally highlighted his ongoing research activities related to the scabies mite genome project. The seminar was attended by faculty members and students of the MNS Department.

The Fourth Congress of the Young Biotechnologists of Bangladesh (Young BB)

Tag: [Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences](#)

Year: April 26th, 2014

The Fourth Congress of the young biotechnologists of Bangladesh was held on 25 April, 2014 at the Senate Bhaban of the University of Dhaka. Faculty members and students of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) of BRACU attended the Congress. **Ms. Aditi Mondal**, Laboratory Technical Officer of MNS Department, also attended the Congress. Over 200 biotechnology and genetic engineering students of different universities of the country presented their research ideas and findings in the Congress. **Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain** worked as an evaluator of the oral presentations in the seminar. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** was the Chief Guest in the concluding ceremony and he distributed prizes among the young biotechnologists for the best posters and biotech business ideas presentations.

Professor Hashemi completes training for BRAC International Young Professionals

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

Year: April 26th, 2014



Professor Syed M Hashemi along with **Rezaur Razzak** (Centre for Entrepreneurship Development) conducted an eight week intensive training programme for BRAC International

Young Professionals. The training included a development track (focusing on global knowledge, country realities and field experience) on a diverse range of sectors and a management track focusing on basic managerial principles and competencies. Participants also spent four weeks in the field to gather first-hand knowledge of BRAC activities, the local contexts, and the lives of the people that BRAC serves. The training program was successfully completed on April 24.

Talk by Former Chief Justice of India

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

Year: April 26th, 2014



The last Chief Justice of India, Honorable Justice **Altamas Kabir**, believes that access to justice for all, in countries like India and Bangladesh can be improved through various innovative alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. **Justice Kabir** was speaking at a talk 'Access to Justice for All', organized by BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University at the Daily Star Centre in the city of Dhaka on 24 April 2014.

The event was chaired by **Advocate Sultana Kamal**, Executive Director of Ain O Salish Kendra, while **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman**, Executive Director of BIGD were also present.

Justice Kabir, who was India's 39th Chief Justice from September 2012 to July 2013, talked about the village level "Lok Adalat" (court of the common people) of India, where disputes are settled across the table on a consensus basis, and the legal aid clinics that give primary solution and advice.

He said women were being given preference in the recruitment of paralegal volunteers for the legal aid clinics. He added, "A man can only go up to the door. A woman has much more entry into the house, and it is easier for them to understand the problems."

In their efforts to make the legal system accessible, mobile vans with a little court inside and accommodation for judicial officers have been introduced. "These vans go to different haats (village markets), melas (fairs) and hold lok adalats." He shared several anecdotes from his life to illustrate how he utilized his position and vision as a legal practitioner to ensure that justice was provided to those who could not access it before.

The talk was also attended by eminent jurists, former lawmakers and Bar Council members, senior lawyers, researchers, academics and journalists. The event received huge coverage in the national media.

BIGD Researcher Attended a Meeting on A2I Implementation Assessment Tool in Washington DC, USA

Tag: [Institute of Educational Development](#)

Year: April 24th, 2014



Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate of BIGD (ex-IGS), attended the Pilot Phase III Validation Meeting on Access to Information (ATI) implementation assessment tool, held from 21- 23 April, 2014 in Washington DC, USA. In the meeting, **Mr. Islam** presented a country assessment report on implementation of right to information legislation in Bangladesh and participated in group and plenary discussions. Researchers and country experts from Chile, Georgia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jordan, Mexico, Scotland, South Africa, Uganda and the United States also have taken part in the meeting, which was moderated by **Ms. Laura Neuman**, Manager, Global Access to Information Initiative and Senior Associate Director, The Carter

Center. The tool, including research findings, will be formally launched in the piloted countries in the coming months.

BIGD, in a grant agreement with The Carter Center, carried out Pilot Phase III of The Center's Access to Information Legislation Implementation Assessment Tool (IAT) in Bangladesh along with ten countries from January to April 2014. IAT has been applied in six government agencies, namely, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, National Board of Revenue, Law & Justice Division and Finance Division. Ex-IGS was involved in Pilot Phase I and Phase II in 2011 and 2013 respectively.

C3ER arranged a “Sensitization Workshop on Climate Change”

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

Year: April 23rd, 2014



C3ER employees visited 9 upazila of Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts from April 17 to April 22, 2014. C3ER team visited Doulotpur, Dighalia, Paikgachha, Shyamnagar, Kaliganj, Kolaroa, Mollahat, Chitalmari and Bagerhat Sadar upazilas from April 17 to April 21, 2014. The field visit in upazila level covered two sessions including focus group discussion of BRAC programme clients for assessing their vulnerability to climate change and interview of BRAC programme staffs for evaluating programme performance. C3ER and DECC, BRAC jointly organized a sensitization workshop on climate change for 27 BRAC staffs from Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts. The sensitization workshop was held at BRAC Learning Centre, Khulna.

The objective of this workshop is to share information about climate change and to sensitize district level BRAC officials. The workshop was conducted by **Professor Ainun Nishat**, VC, BRAC University and **Mr. Nandan Mukherjee**, Director, C3ER. **Professor Nishat** discussed about the scientific aspect of climate change and its impact on different sectors. He showed the vulnerability drivers and impact of climate change in selected BRAC programmes (Microfinance, Agriculture and Food Security, Disaster, Environment and Climate Change, Education, Health, Nutrition and Population). He also discussed regarding the strength, weakness, opportunity and threats of BRAC programmes based on field findings. Afterward, BRAC officials participated in group discussion on possible impacts of climate change on BRAC programmes that was moderated by **Mr. Nandan Mukherjee**. Five different groups were formed for discussion on five different programmes. They were also provided some general impact of climate change on BRAC programmes considering the vulnerability drivers and also identified some more impacts of climate change, possible solutions to those impacts and implementation plan. Finally, each group presented their findings.

BIGD Executive Director's Activities

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

Year: April 22nd, 2014

In April, 2014 BIGD Executive Director **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** held several meetings with number of distinguished personalities such as Ministers, Advisers to the Honorable Prime Minister and prominent academics and researchers 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 **Mr. Juan Miranda**, Director General and **Mr. Hun Kin**, Deputy Director General of Asian Development Bank (ADB), **Dr. Mashiur Rahman**, Adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister, Economic Affairs, **Dr. Gowher Rizvi**, Adviser to Prime Minister, **Dr. Mustaque R. Chowdhury**, Vice Chairperson of BRAC, **Mr. Firoz Shah Alam**, Member, NBR, **Mr. Zaidi Sattar**, Chairman, Policy Research Institute (PRI).

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman also attended a Seminar on 'Improved Educational Outcomes for Rural Students' as the Chief Guest on 21st April at BRAC Centre Inn. This Seminar was organized by BRAC Research and Evaluation Division (RED) in collaboration with Faculty of Business and Economics, Monash University under financial support from DFAT (AusAid). Further, **Dr. Rahman** attended another Seminar on 'Trade and Investment for Higher Growth' on 23rd April organized by Policy Research Institute (PRI) in collaboration with DFID.

RS Closing

Tag: [Residential Campus](#)

Year: April 19th, 2014



The Residential Semester, Spring 2014 ended on April 17, 2014 in presence of **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. He distributed certificates among the students and delivered a speech addressing the students. The session began with a welcome note delivered by a student while **Mr. Rehan Ahmed**, Assistant Campus Superintendent made the closing remarks.

Grand Opening of eat@

Tag: [BRAC Business School](#)

Year: April 19th, 2014



On 17 April, 2014 at 5 pm “BRAC Chicken” invited five of BRAC University students and Assistant Professor **Ms. Afsana Akhtar**, BRAC Business School at the grand opening ceremony of its flagship food outlet “eat @” situated at the 5th floor of Jamuna Future Park, Bashundhara, Dhaka. The outlet was inaugurated by Chief Guest **Ms. Tamara Hasan Abed**, Senior Director, Enterprise BRAC on that day. **Catherine Aniee Bose, Cathy Bipasha Sarkar, Nafis Mehrab Al-Islam, Md. Samiul Arefin** and **Md. Abid Hossain** from BRAC Business School got recognition for developing the newly found food chain name: “eat @”.

In the summer 2013 semester, a classroom assignment was assigned to the students of the Consumer Behavior course of BRAC Business School where the students had to develop a brand name for the upcoming food outlet of “BRAC Chicken” of the “BRAC Enterprise”. There were several groups; however, the winning team consisted of five members from BRAC Business School. The team got recognition for the name “eat @”. The students said they wanted the name to be trendy since the target group was youngsters which made them create a brand name with ‘@’ symbol in it. **Ms. Tamara Hasan Abed** awarded letter of appreciation to the students. Along with the certificate the students were presented with gift voucher and the guests received souvenirs and complementary snacks of the inaugurated food outlet.

Pohela Baisakh Celebration

Tag: [Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences](#)

Year: April 19th, 2014

A pot-luck lunch party was organized by the MNS Department on April 17, 2014 to celebrate the Bengali New Year, 1421. April 17, 2014 happened to be the last day of classes for Spring 2014 semester for the university. The faculty members brought varieties of delicious items for the lunch which was also attended by **Professor Fuad Hasan Mallick**, Pro-Vice Chancellor and **Mr. Khan Ahmed Murshid**, Joint Registrar. It was a very joyous occasion and was highly appreciated by everyone.

BIGD Researcher Participated in an Exchange Program in China

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

Year: April 19th, 2014



BIGD Research Associate **Mr. Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury** participated in an Exchange Program organized by Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) from 9-18 April 2014. He was part of a South Asian delegation which consisted of participants from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and the programs were held respectively in Beijing, Fuzhou and Kunming. The South Asian delegation had discussions with CAFIU leaders, attended briefings about China's development in the political, economic and social areas given by Chinese experts and also had exchanges of views with Chinese NGOs. The delegation also had a meeting with the Foreign Affairs Office of the Yunnan Provincial People's Government.

TLC illuminating pathway for students: General Skills Workshop (GSW)

Tag: [Teaching and Learning Centre](#)

Year: April 19th, 2014



The Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) has offered General Skill Workshops (GSW) for first year students of BRAC University from 8th April- 17th April, 2014. These workshops provided an overview to support students on how to prepare before final examinations and the key topics that were emphasized throughout the two weeks of workshop were: Test -Taking tips, Stress Management, and Test-taking Anxieties. The series of these workshops were facilitated by **Ms. Sabrina Syed** and **Mr. Muhammad Foysal Mubarak**

During the same weekdays TLC also coordinated with Counseling Unit (CU) workshop on Exam Anxiety and Tutorial classes on Physics & Mathematics offered by MNS department.

Final Examination seat plan, Spring 2014 (Undergraduate programs)

Tag: [Announcement](#)

Year: April 19th, 2014

[Final Examination seat plan at a glance](#) (pdf)

Exams are scheduled in multiple rooms:

Exam Date: April 26, 2014

[ACT201](#) | [BIO101](#) | [BUS202](#) | [BUS302](#) | [CEE212](#) | [CSE330](#) | [CSE370](#) | [ECO201](#) | [ECO202](#) |

[ECO303](#) | [ECO401](#) | [EEE223](#) | [ENG114](#) | [ENG122](#) | [ENG440](#) | [HST103](#) | [MAT110](#) | [MAT120](#) | [MAT215](#) | [MKT424](#) | [MKT426](#) | [STA101](#)

Exam Date: April 27, 2014

[ARC393](#) | [BUS301](#) | [CHE101](#) | [ENG115](#) | [ENG214](#) | [ENG221](#) | [ENV101](#) | [ENV103](#) | [FIN424](#) | [LAW301](#) | [LAW401](#) | [MAT216](#) | [MGT425](#) | [MKT423](#) | [PSY101](#) | [SOC101](#) | [STA201](#)

Exam Date: April 28, 2014

[BUS321](#) | [CSE331](#) | [ECO102](#) | [ECO104](#) | [EEE241](#) | [EEE341](#) | [FIN421](#) | [MGT211](#) | [MGT423](#)

Exam Date: April 29, 2014

[BUS101](#) | [BUS203](#) | [CHE110](#) | [ENG332](#) | [FIN441](#) | [MGT201](#) | [MGT427](#) | [PSY421](#)

Exam Date: April 30, 2014

[CSE391](#) | [CSE422](#) | [EEE415](#) | [EEE343](#) | [FIN423](#) | [MGT301](#) | [MGT422](#) | [MSC142](#)

Admission Test Results, Summer 2014

Publish Date:

Thursday, April 17, 2014 - 17:30

Undergraduate Programs

*(admission test held on **11 April** 2014)*

- **Selected candidates** for admission into BRAC University
[View results and deadlines](#) (pdf)
- **Provisionally selected candidates** for admission into BRAC University
[View results and deadlines](#) (pdf)

(admission test held on 14 March 2014)

- **Selected candidates** for admission into BRAC University
[View final results and admission deadlines](#) (pdf)
- **Provisionally selected candidates** for admission into BRAC University
[View final results and admission deadlines](#) (pdf)

Postgraduate Programs

- [MBA Program](#) (Final result)

- [MPSM Program](#) (Final result)
- [MCA Program](#) (Final result)
- [M.Sc/M.Engg in CSE program](#) (Final result)
- [MA in English program](#) (Final result)
- [MA in TESOL program](#)
- [MS in Biotechnology program](#) (Final result)
- [M.Sc/M.Engg EEE program](#)
- [M.Sc/M.Engg program](#)
- [MCA Program](#)
- [EMBA Program](#)
- [MBA Program](#)

Students of ECO 432 (Money and Banking) makes poster presentations

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

Year: April 17th, 2014

ECO 432 (Money and Banking) is a course that focuses on Financial Institutions. On April 16 the students presented various topics under the umbrella of “Financial Crises over the Globe” at ESS Department. Posters were made based on their respective topics and the presentations were done to encourage an open discourse amongst faculty and students. Topics ranged from the recent the 2008 Sub-prime crises, the Glass-Steagall Act, a Critique of the Bangladesh Bank Order of 2003 to as far back as the Speculative Bubble of Dutch Tulip of 1637. A total of 15 topics were presented covering a time period of over 350 years.

Professor Hashemi’s article in the book “Social Protection in Bangladesh”

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

Year: April 17th, 2014

Professor **Syed M Hashemi**’s article “Global Perspectives on Graduation and Promotion” has been published and added as a book chapter on “Social Protection in Bangladesh-Building Effective Social Safety Nets and Ladders out of Poverty”. The book is published by The University Press Limited and was launched on April 16. Drawing on the 2011 international conference on Social Protection held in Dhaka, the book provides an overview of the rich body of researched knowledge, international lessons and national experiences on social protection.

IDRC's Second Phase Assessment Visit to BIGD

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

Year: April 16th, 2014



Mr. Samar Verma and **Ms. Kathy Stockton**, Evaluators, commissioned by International Development Research Centre (IDRC), visited the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University on 15th April 2014. IGS Executive Director **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** welcomed the evaluators to IGS and discussed vision, mission, objectives, targeted outputs, utilization of funds in Phase I. He also expressed sincere appreciation to IDRC for the grant under the TTI provided to IGS over last four years which has enabled so many of the accomplishments including two annual flagship publications of IGS to be sustained by the IDRC grant. **Dr. Hafeez** also mentioned the most inspirational part of IDRC's grant under the TTI which is its flexibility to undertake 'independent' research. **Dr. Hafeez** wished that with the autonomy already provided by BRAC University's Board of Trustees to BIGD, it will have much more to show for the IDRC grant this year, and hoped very much that IDRC will continue to support BIGD at this crucial time to transition and for the long haul –TTI Phase II.

BIGD Institutional Advisor and former IGS Director (during Phase I application) **Barrister Manzoor Hasan** had a meeting with the IDRC Evaluators where he presented the genesis, evolution and context of IGS and BIGD's establishment, progress to date, the ongoing merger, and future structural direction of BIGD. He also expressed confidence that if the Phase II grant materializes, BIGD may be expected to emerge as a top rated centre of excellence in Bangladesh and the wider region around it.

Later, **Mr. Verma** and **Ms. Stockton** participated in a number of meetings with Research team comprising Research fellows, Senior Researchers, Faculty members' and others led by **Dr. Minhaj Mahmud**, Head of Research, BIGD; Communications team led by **Mr. Ekram Hossain**, Project Manager (Communications), IGS and Finance, Administration, IT & HR team led by **Mr. Alamgir Kabir**, Head of Operations (Admin, Finance, HR & IT), BIGD. Different teams made separate presentations on the responsibilities, activities, the ways of works, achievements, and the targets/plans of each team to be achieved in 2014 and further on.

This was the final evaluation before they announce the recipients of the grants under TTI Phase II in June 2014.

Pohela Boishakh, RS

Tag: [Residential Campus](#)

Year: April 15th, 2014



BRAC University Savar campus celebrated the “Pohela Boishakh” on April 14, 2014. All the students participated and enjoyed the program. The campus was decorated beautifully in Bengali tradition.

Faculty News

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

Year: April 15th, 2014

S. M. Shamsul Alam joined as Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at ESS. He did his B.A and M.A in Sociology from University of Dhaka and his PhD from University Oregon, US. He taught Sociology at Southern Oregon University in Ashland Oregon, US for many years. **Professor Alam** had been a Senior Fulbright Scholar and Specialist in Kenya, Philippines and in Malta. He authored numerous articles in peered refereed journals. His published books include *The State, Class Formation and Development* (1995), *Rethinking Mau Mau in Colonial Kenya* (2007), *Governmentality and Counter-hegemony in Bangladesh* (Forthcoming).

Assistant Professor **Rubana Ahmed** has been confirmed as a permanent faculty member of ESS. She joined the department as an Assistant Professor on April 2013. She obtained her M.A. in Economics from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas and her PhD from the University

of Texas at Dallas, USA, in Public Policy and Political Economy. Her areas of interest include social policy related to poverty alleviation and the role of the non-profit sector, credit accessibility for the poor, poverty alleviation through collaborative efforts of the public and the private sector and the community, disability studies and financial inclusion.

Cultural Program

Tag: [Residential Campus](#)

Year: April 14th, 2014

Cultural night was held in BRAC University Savar campus on April 13, 2014. Students took part in a number of activities such as dancing and singing. Besides, they also arranged fashion show. The RS faculties and management staffs were present in the program.

IEEE Bangladesh Section Annual Dinner 2014

Tag: [Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#)

Year: April 12th, 2014



Arranging a big event is an extremely difficult task especially if the participation of each and every branch of a section of a widely renowned international professional organization like IEEE is to be ensured. 11th of April, 2014 was marked by the Annual Dinner of IEEE Bangladesh

Section, arranged by IEEE BUET Student Branch, in which almost every branch of this organization throughout the country participated including a group of student members representing IEEE BRAC University Student Branch. The dinner, hosted at the Central Cafeteria of BUET, served as an opportunity for all the student branches to introduce each other and interact with other university branches amidst a lot of fun and activities in a congenial environment.

The event begun with all the student branch representatives introducing their respective student branches and talk about their relevant objectives followed by the inauguration of the event by the honorable Chairman and Vice Chairman of IEEE Bangladesh section with their valued speech and instructions to all the members for a bright future.

Soon, dinner was served and seats were full almost immediately with all the attendees busy enjoying a sumptuous full-course dinner. The feast was followed by a raffle draw of lucky numbers on the invitation card delivered earlier. The hall was instantly full of 'oohs' and 'aahs' of the lucky winners as well as the unfortunate ones who nearly missed. Despite the fact that our branch wasn't lucky enough to win prizes, the raffle draw session was nevertheless animated.

With a photo session with the Bangladesh section Chairman and Vice chairman, we bid the organizers as well as the members of other student branches farewell and left the hall with a content heart, a mind full of good memories and not to mention, a very happy stomach. Indeed, the IEEE annual dinner was, is, and hopefully, will always be an excellent ground for all the student branches to come and gather together and socialize in an exceptionally pleasant milieu.

A Trip to the Atomic Energy Research Establishment

Tag: [Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#)

Year: April 12th, 2014



In the field of research, atomic energy research is one of the most expensive and highly sensitive research areas. Thus, for a developing country like Bangladesh, the establishment of an Atomic

Energy Research Institute at Ganakbari, Savar, was definitely a milestone for the country's advancement in the field of scientific & technological research. The institute holds the one and only research nuclear reactor of the country. IEEE BRAC University Student Branch arranged a short tour to the Atomic Energy Research Establishment for the IEEE student members of BRAC University on the 10th of April. With a small group of student members and two faculty members of the SECS, we visited four units at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment which served as a boost up for our brain to enhance our will to learn more.

The two-hour-journey to the establishment itself was quite interesting owing to an inspiring conversation with our faculty members about academic and career related issues. With the visitors' pass delivered to us at our arrival, we were guided to the Institute of Electronic and Computer Science. Our first visit was their VLSI laboratory where one of the scientific officers gave us a briefing on the research works conducted in the lab and explained the working mechanism and construction of the machineries. This VLSI lab, according to him, is the only one in our country and its extremely sensitive and expensive machineries, worth millions of BDT, are mostly from Germany. Owing to the high level sensitivity of the machineries they have to maintain strict dust control procedures. Then we visited the computer science lab and the electronic lab where we saw the parts, working model as well as learned about the building mechanism of different types of domestically produced electronic equipments, remarkable among which are the various versions of our country's own, digital and analog radiation detectors.

After leaving the Institute of Electronic and Computer Science we visited the Institute of Food and Radiation Biology and then the Radioactive Waste Management Unit. At the Institute of Food and Radiation Biology we were given a detailed description of a machine that can produce around 3000 MV and serve many purposes as well with hydrogen atoms as raw material. Then we went to the Radioactive Waste Management Unit which collects radioactive liquids from all over the country to purify them and make them neutral so that the citizens do not suffer from the harmful effects of radiation.



Finally we visited the Reactor Operation and Maintenance Unit to see and learn about the working mechanism of the nuclear reactor under the supervision of engineer and research officer **Mr. Md. Aliuzzaman Sarder**. The reactor, with Uranium as the main fuel element needs only 10 minutes to start and to reach a power level of 3 MW from the sub critical state. **Mr. Aliuzzaman** also took us to the control room and described the function of both the digital and analog control systems. Thanks to **Mr. Aliuzzaman**, we were permitted on the roof of the

reactor and we got to see the inside of the reactor. With such a finale to end the exceedingly informative tour, we left the premises of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment with full satisfaction.

After a delicious lunch at Banani, we finally reached BRAC University campus at 5pm, tired, yet happy with the knowledge acquired on such an educational as well as enjoyable trip, accredited to the IEEE BRAC University Student Branch.

Brown Bag Seminars at ESS

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

Year: April 12th, 2014

On April 03, 2014 **Professor Sajjad Zohir** presented his on-going work "Search for a Modal Value amongst Students: Perspective of a Teacher". He shared some of his preliminary observations from data on students compiled over four semesters and his experience over the period. Summary information revealed that the students differ in several dimensions, often very widely. Thus, one may only define a modal vector that represents clustering in a multi-dimensional space. While several variables were identified, the need to converge to a relevant set was emphasized. The search for a modal vector presumes the class of students to be 'flat'; and therefore the presentation raised a second important question: can one conceive of a multi-tiered structure for transmitting education?

The Anthropology Collective's 5th brown bag seminar was held on April 10, 2014 on "A Basic Understanding of Social Classes: Challenges in Perception, Curriculum and Political Prejudice" by **Dr. Manosh Chowdhury**, Professor and the Current Chair of Department of Anthropology, Jahangirnagar University.

Recruitment Session with SIRIUS Marketing and Social Research LTD.

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

Year: April 12th, 2014



BRAC University
Career Services Office (CSO) in collaboration with SIRIUS, a prominent research based

marketing organization, arranged an on-spot recruitment program at BRACU auditorium on April 10, 2014. The venture was intended to search and identify for potential employees from business background focusing on finance, marketing, economics, statistics etc. Many graduating students took part in the event and asked queries.

Mr. Khan A.N. Murshid, Director, CSO and Joint Registrar, BRAC University opened the event, while **Mr. Sanjay Pal**, Managing Director, SIRIUS, the key speaker discussing the career prospects and requirements in his pre-placement Talks (PPT).

“SIRIUS is a leading enterprise supporting business and economic sectors globally and BRACU is committed to produce future leaders and talents who can serve this purpose perfectly”, **Mr. Murshid** said in his welcoming speech.

A written test took place as a part of the recruitment process. The event generated a great deal of interest among the students and concluded on a very optimistic note about the prospects of BRACU students to be working in the field that SIRIUS represents.

All members of the CSO were present in the event namely **Mr. Kazi Shahnoor Kabir**, **Ms. Shanzida Shahab Uddin**, **Ms. Rakshinda Huq**, **Ms. Rachel Jeana Gomes** along with the assistance of student volunteers.

BIGD Staff Participation in the Gender and Development Fair in Rangpur

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

Year: April 12th, 2014



BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) participated in a three-day long fair,

'Gender and Development Fair-2014', held at Begum Rokeya University (BRU) from 8-10 April 2014. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and BRU jointly organized the fair in Rangpur with the theme 'Inspiring Change: Pathways to Empowerment' for promoting development and empowerment of women.

The State Minister for Women and Children Affairs **Ms. Meher Afroz Chumki** inaugurated the ceremony. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Vice-Chancellor of BRU **Professor AKM Nurunnabi** and **Ms. Janina Jerujaleski**, Mission Director of USAID was also present.

The concluding ceremony of the fair took place on Thursday, 10th April 2014. US Ambassador to Bangladesh **H.E Dan Mozena** addressed the ceremony as an invited guest. Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur **Mr. Farid Ahammed** also addressed the occasion as the special guest while USAID Senior Programme Development Specialist **Ms. Mahmuda Rahman Khan** moderated the ceremony. The State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives **Mr. Moshiur Rahman Ranga** also addressed the concluding ceremony.

A total of 70 stalls of domestic and foreign agencies participated at the fair. Seminars, symposiums and discussion programs were the part of the 3-day long program. Among others, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) represented BRAC University at the fair. The stall contained a diverse range of publications from the Institute on the topics such as Gender Social Justice, Advancement of Women and Social Transformation, Politics, Democracy and Governance, Local Governance, Sustainable Development and Urbanization. BIGD Programme Officer, **Ms. Marufa Aktar**, Project Assistant **Ms. Sameeah Zahangir** and Research Associate **Mr. Shameem Reza Khan**, represented BIGD at the fair.

Classroom Assessment Techniques (CATs)

Publish Date:

Saturday, April 12, 2014 - 10:30



A follow-up program was organized by TLC on 10th April, 2014 in VC conference room. The program was

mainly organized for the faculty members who participated in the 12th TLC faculty workshop but was open for all as guest faculty. A total of 14 faculty members from BBS, MNS, CSE, Pharmacy, ARC, IED, Counseling Unit and BIL participated in the workshop. The program commenced in a conversational mode and focused intensively on Classroom Assessment techniques, discussed various approaches to help teachers find out what students are learning and how well they are learning it, and also how Assessment/Self-assessment allows to clearly evaluate and understand the overall quality of one's work and identify areas for improvement. A survey on Teaching Goals Inventory was filled up by each participant to understand a bit of their assessment and teaching & learning techniques. The entire session was conducted by **Prof. Riaz P. Khan**, Professor of History and Dean of Student Affairs.

Meet the Writer

Publish Date:

Thursday, April 10, 2014 - 15:45



On April 9, 2014, the Writing Centre, in association with BRAC University Communication and Language Club (BUCLC) arranged a session titled “Meet the Writer”, where the writer invited was **Dr. Kaiser Haq**, a prominent writer of Bangladesh. Notably, this program was a part of English Campaign Launch at Mohakhali.

Dr. Haq started with a short talk on his life, career and his success as a writer. This was followed by a question-answer session where the students and teachers of BRAC University took part. Dr. Haq inspired the students to write and gave some valuable advice on how to be a good writer. Then, he distributed prizes among the winners of an Essay Competition, whose essays were selected by him prior to the program. **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**, Director, BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) concluded the session with a vote of thanks.

Workshop on “Moving Towards Climate Smart BRAC”

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

Year: April 10th, 2014



A workshop on “Moving Towards Climate Smart BRAC” was held in BRAC Centre Inn on April 09, 2014. The workshop was jointly organized by Disaster, Environment and Climate Change (DECC) programme, BRAC and Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER), BRAC University. Key participants of the workshop from BRAC were **Dr. Mahabub Hossain**, Advisor to the Interim Executive Director, **Dr. Babar Kabir**, Senior Director, WASH & DECC and **Ms. Tanziba Ambreen Haque**, Senior Programme Head, DECC, BRAC. Key participants from BRAC University were **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor and **Mr. Nandan Mukherjee**, Director, C3ER, **AS Moniruzzaman Khan**, Coordinator- Research, C3ER, **Roufa Khanum**, Coordinator-Operations, C3ER. A number of participants from BRAC and BRAC University attended the workshop. Initial speeches were given by **Dr. Babar Kabir** and **Dr. Mahabub Hossain**. Afterward, **Professor Ainun Nishat** presented the key note on climate change and the project. The main aim of the workshop was to sensitize the participants towards climate change and future impact of climate change in Bangladesh as well as to give a clear idea about the research project. The workshop was divided into two sessions; technical session and open discussion. The probable impact and vulnerability of climate change on programmes of BRAC discussed in the workshop.

BIGD National Seminar on Social protection

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

Year: April 7th, 2014



Social safety nets that are designed and implemented to meet context-specific needs, help integrate poor citizens of Chars and the indigenous population into society, said **Dr. Ferdous Jahan**, Professor of Public Administration in the University of Dhaka and Academic Coordinator of BIGD, while unveiling a research report conducted by the UK based Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and BRAC Institute of Governance and Studies (BIGD) at the BRAC Centre Inn on April 6, 2014.

Professor Ferdous Jahan was addressing an audience at a National Seminar, ‘*Can social protection contribute to social inclusion?*’ jointly organized by ODI and BIGD. BIGD Executive Director **Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman** chaired the seminar. In the concluding remarks, BIGD Head of Research **Dr. Minhaj Mahmud** said: “although 2.2% of our GDP is spent on social safety net programs, more than 60% of the poor and vulnerable population do not receive such benefits.

Among others, **Dr. A H M Abdullah**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development and Cooperatives; **Dr. Zohir Ahmed**, Department of Anthropology, Jahangirnagar University; Research Director of Ministry of Food **Mr. Hazikul Islam**; UK Based ODI Research Fellows **Dr. Rebecca Holmes** and **Ms. Jessica Hagen-Zanker**, representatives of research and academic institutions, government organizations, donor agencies, NGOs, international organizations and civil society members attended the seminar.

Political Development of Bangladesh (1971 - present)

Tag: [Residential Campus](#)

Year: April 6th, 2014



An integrated session titled “Political Development of Bangladesh (1971-present)” was facilitated by **Dr. Manjur Karim (Piash Karim)**, Professor, Department of Economics and Social Sciences, BRAC University at Markuli Hall, BRAC University Savar Campus. The session took place on 05 April, 2014 as part of the Experiential Learning Activity of the Bangladesh Studies course. It aimed at familiarizing the students with the political development, dynamics and discourse (from Bangladeshi perspective) of Bangladesh along with the achievements and challenges that Bangladesh has experienced since 1971. Particularly, the session focused on the political scenario and the political culture of Bangladesh based on different regimes that have ruled Bangladesh since independence. The students participated and interacted with much enthusiasm.

Report on ‘A Visit to Orphanage’ by BRAC University Community Service Club

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

Year: April 6th, 2014

The members of BRAC University Community Service Club went to a small orphanage called “SHISHUDER JONNO AMMRA” at Adabor on 4th April, 2014 to spend some time with the orphans. More than 25 children are living under the supervision of **Ms. Hazera Begum**. The children recited poems, sang songs and had lunch with BUCSC members. Then the students distributed small gifts like pencil boxes, notebooks, toys etc to those children.

BIL faculty members attended IATEFL Conference in the UK

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Languages](#)

Year: April 6th, 2014



Two BIL faculty members, **Mohammad Aminul Islam**, Senior Lecturer and **Mohammad Rejaul Karim**, Lecturer attended the 48th IATEFL Conference (International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language) held in Harrogate, the United Kingdom from April 2 to 5, 2014. The conference, the biggest of its kind, was attended by 2,500 delegates from all over the world.

Mr. Mohammad Aminul Islam presented a paper titled “Blending ‘reflective’ and ‘dialogue journal’ to leverage professional skill development.” In his presentation, he discussed how BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) has introduced both ‘dialogue’ and ‘reflective journal’ in teachers training programme to close the existing gap between theory and practice. He also shared how this concept has resulted into sustainable and continuous professional development of English teachers.

Mr. Mohammad Rejaul Karim attended the conference as a part of the British Council Bangladesh team. He also attended the Pre-Conference Event (PCE) on Learning Technologies Special Interest Group (LT SIG) on April 1, 2014.

Workshop for the students of MA in TESOL

Tag: [BRAC Institute of Languages](#)

Year: April 6th, 2014



On April 5, 2014, a four-hour workshop focusing on teaching speaking to ESL students was conducted by Jimalee Sowell, English Language Fellow and instructor at BRAC Institute of Languages, BRAC University for the students of MA in TESOL, BRAC University. The workshop was divided into two sessions. The first session was on “Lesson planning and logical progression of a speaking class” and the second session focused on “Interactive speaking activities that can be used with a wide range language points.”

The CSO Organizes BRAC University Prothom-alojobs Career Fair-2014

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

Year: April 6th, 2014



With the aim of ‘tackling graduate unemployment’ through academia-industry collaboration, the CSO in cooperation with Prothom-alojobs organized a major national career fair on April 04-05, 2014 at the Westin Dhaka. The event was inaugurated by **Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG**, Founder and Chairperson of BRAC and Chairperson of BRAC University Board of Trustees. Among others, **Matiur Rahman**, Editor of Prothom Alo and **Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed**, Managing Editor of The Daily Star, were present as guests along with other dignitaries from different organizations. **Sir Abed** also graced the event with his presence on the second day as he visited every individual stall and encouraged the organizers for putting on such an important event.

The purpose of this career fair was to establish and foster a long term relationship between industry and academia by connecting employers and applicants so that graduating students get an idea of job prospects in a range of professional areas while the employers can assess the quality of the students.

The two-day event engaged around 50 employers from all key sectors of the economy from different disciplines including pharmaceuticals, banks and other financial organizations, educational institutions, MNCs, communications and media organizations, telecom brands, beverage companies, humanitarian associations and service providers participated in the event alongside all departments and institutes of the university as well as a host of corporate and public sector leaders and key entrepreneurs and captains of industry. A total of 15,000 graduating students from different universities visited the fair.

A series of seminars and workshops also took place simultaneously at different Ballrooms of the Westin Hotel. Seminars/workshops were held on:

How to improve Graduates' employability and Leadership Skills? The role of University and Industry” by BRAC Education Program, “Providing sustainable solutions- projects and opportunities at Mott MacDonald, Bangladesh”, by Mott MacDonald, HR Aftermath” by BRAC EPL Investments LTD, "Starting a career in the financial sector", by BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage LTD, An Introduction to BRAC Institute of Global Health, the Masters in Public Health Program and the Continuing Education Program", by BRAC Institute of Global Health , “HSPP’s Contribution and the Role Towards the Graduates” by HSPP and “Career Clinic” by Prothom-alojobs.

The event concluded with a closing ceremony that included speeches by stall holders, organizers and volunteers.

Popular-Theatre

Tag: [Residential Campus](#)

Year: April 5th, 2014



A drama titled "Firey Ashi" was staged by a popular-theater group called "Chandana" of Community Empowerment Programme, BRAC, who came from Modhukhali, Faridpur. The performance took place on the Duranto field in BRAC University Savar Campus on April 3, 2014. The drama was about life-oriented ethical dilemmas of the students. It focused on the negative effects of the abuse of technologies, drug addiction, dishonesty, disrespect towards family and society and frustration regarding friendship and other emotional relationships. Furthermore, through insightful songs and dialogues, the drama suggested remedies to overcome such problems.

It is worth mentioning that most of the performers were local folk talents. Also, **Mr. Chinmoy** was present during the occasion on behalf of the popular-theatre group of BRAC.

Notably, the drama was performed as a part of the Ethics and Culture course.

Economy of Bangladesh: Achievements and Challenges

Tag: [Residential Campus](#)

Year: April 5th, 2014



On April 3, 2014, an integrated class titled 'Economy of Bangladesh: Achievements and Challenges' was facilitated by **Professor Syed M. Hashemi**, Chairperson of Economics and Social Sciences Department, BRAC University at Markuli Hall, BRAC University Savar Campus. Notably this session is a part of the Experiential Learning Activity of Bangladesh Studies course. The purpose of this session was to introduce the students to the economic achievements of Bangladesh since its independence. However, the focus was mainly on Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh based on the Bangladesh Poverty Assessment 2013. The students participated enthusiastically and spontaneously.

BIL Faculty Members Attended E-Teacher Orientation and Certificate Distribution Ceremony

Publish Date:

Saturday, April 5, 2014 - 16:00



Faculty members of BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL), BRAC University attended the E-Teacher Orientation and Certificate Distribution Ceremony on April 3, 2014 at the American Center, Dhaka.

Mr. Kushal Das, Mr. Kazi Mafizur Rahman, Md. Akteruzzaman, Ms. Nishat Sharmin, Ms. Syeda Shabnam Mahmud, and Ms. Farina Haque received the certificates for the English Webinar Course 11 titled, *Shaping the Way We Teach*. The course content covered recent teaching practices in Language teaching focusing on task based learning.

Ms. Mehetaz Chowdhury and Mr. Ashik Sarwar received certificates for the E-teachers courses titled, “Assessment: Summative and Formative Practices in Language Learning and Teaching (Assessment)” and “Introduction to Pedagogy and Practices for Teaching English to

Speaker of Other Languages (TESOL Methods)”, respectively. **Mr. Asek Amin Miraj** attended the orientation program for the E-teacher course on Special Education. Notably, E-Teacher is a U.S. Department of State (US DOS) program, funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and managed by Office of English Language Programs. E-Teacher courses and the professional development exchange are administered by the University of Oregon’s (UO) American English Institute (AEI), a program of the Department of Linguistics.

New faces at BRACU and Left from BRACU

Tag: [Human Resource Office](#)

Year: April 4th, 2014

New Faces

BRAC Institute of Languages

Ms. Saudia Islam joined as a Lecturer I at BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL), at Savar Campus in April 2014. **Ms. Saudia** did MA and BA both in Philosophy from Jahangirnagar University.

Management and Admin

Mr. Mithun Saha joined as a Dorm Supervisor at BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) at Savar Campus in April 2014. **Mr. Saha** did M.B.S. and B.Com both in Management from National University.

Left from BRACU

BRAC Institute of Languages

Ms. Roxana Ahmad Chowdhury a lecturer of BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) has left BRACU in April 2014.

Ms. Sabrin Sarwar a Lecturer of BIL at Savar Campus has also left BRACU in April 2014.

Residential Campus

Dr. Asma Akter a Residential Doctor at Savar Campus has left BRACU in April 2014.

Ms. Momena Khatun a House Tutor at Savar Campus also left BRACU in April 2014.

Faculty on Study Leave

MNS

A faculty member **Mr. Fazle Rabbi** who was serving as Lecturer III in the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) went for Study leave in April 2014.

MS Theses Defense in Biotechnology Program

Tag: [Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences](#)

Year: April 3rd, 2014

Three students of MS in biotechnology program defended their theses on 2 April, 2014 in the MNS Department. **Ms. Sadia Ahmed** presented her work entitled “Temperature stability study of killed, bivalent, oral cholera vaccine, Shanchol in Bangladeshi adult participants”. She worked with the efficiency of a recombinant vaccine preserved at high temperatures. Interestingly she found non-significant change of efficacy after a fortnight-long elevated temperature treatment. The work was carried out at icddr,b under the joint supervision of **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** and **Professor Firdausi Qadri**, Director for Centre for Vaccine Sciences at icddr,b. The second presentation was given by **Mr. Raba Mahdi**. He worked in the field of bioinformatics under the supervision of **Dr. Aparna Islam**. The title of his work is “Identification of synchronized role of transcription factors, genes and enzymes in Arabidopsis thaliana under four abiotic stress responsive pathways”. He worked with abiotic stresses, like heat, coldness, drought and abscisic acid. He identified the common genes and then established a network hub that would help in withstanding these stresses. **Finally, Mr. Armanul Naser** presented his work entitled “Isolation and characterization of yeasts from local fruit varieties for bioethanol production, using sugarcane molasses”. He worked under the joint guidance of **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** and **Dr. Mahboob Hossain**. This study revealed that indigenous isolated yeast could be a bio-fuel source.

ESS Department holds a discussion forum as part of the English Campaign at BRACU

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

Year: April 3rd, 2014

On April 2, ESS department arranged a discussion session to engage students in an interactive dialogue on “How English Has Evolved in the Sub-Continent and How It Affects Our Lives

Today.” Joint Registrar, **Khan Ahmed Murshid**, **Professor Riaz P. Khan** (Dean, Student Affairs) and **Professor Shamsul Alam** (ESS department) were the key speakers. Faculty members from ESS and other departments were also present. The discussants presented a brief overview on how English found its way into the sub-continent during the colonial period and how the use of English has gradually and essentially become important in our lives. The active audience participation also gave life to some socially important issues like English as a Foreign Language vs. Second Language, how use of English may pose insecurity in terms of cultural identity and how English gives rise to class preference and privilege.

Debate Session

Tag: [Residential Campus](#)

Year: April 2nd, 2014

On April 1, 2014, a show parliamentary debate session was organized at BRAC University Savar campus where two teams of students debated on the topic “Military training must be mandatory for the youth of our Country”. **Fairuz Sharif**, **Azraf Uddin Ahmed** and **Zawad Hasan Adib** argued for the topic while **Ashfia Nahreen**, **Saiduzzaman Diprow** and **Sifatul Islam** spoke in opposition. The panel of adjudicators consisted of **Ms. Farrah Jabeen**, **Mr. Ashik Sarwar**, **Mr. Aminul Islam** and **Ms. Natasha Israt Kabir**. The moderator for the session was **Mr. Ashik Sarwar**.

The purpose of the debate session was to demonstrate the debating skills that the students have learned from the ELA debate activity during the semester.

Notably, the session was attended by the Assistant Campus Superintendant, RS faculty members and the entire RS batch 35 student body (450 students).

Freshers Day

Tag: [Student Affairs](#)

Year: April 2nd, 2014

Freshers Day of the Departments of Architecture, Computer Science & Engineering and Mathematics & Natural Sciences was held at BRAC Centre for Development Management (BCDM), Savar on April 1, 2003. About two hundred new students, their parents, Professor J R Choudhury, VC, teachers of the departments and administrative staff attended the daylong program. The event created a scope for students and their parents to meet the VC, teachers and the administrative staff and discuss various issues in an informal environment. VC addressed the gathering and spoke about BRAC University while Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Treasurer, BU

narrated in brief the history of BRAC and informed the students and parents about the various programs of BRAC. Professor Abdur Rab also addressed the gathering and discussed the various academic programs of BU and highlighted the importance of students, teachers and parents effective working relationship to achieve the desired educational standards in BU.

Presentation of Undergraduate Dissertations, MNS Department

Tag: [Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences](#)

Year: April 2nd, 2014

Four final year students including **Ms. Shafaque Rahman, Ms. Monisha Datta, Ms. Trina Hasan** and **Mr. Chinmoy Pramanik** gave presentations about the work during their industrial training at the Incepta Labs. Their presentation focused on the different aspect of their work during the industrial attachment period.