

Quarterly Newsletter

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Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman stressed on the role of country specific democratic institutions to achieve SDG Goals at Oxford Seminar



Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman (Left) at Oxford University's 5th Seminar on Advancing Good Governance in International Development- Peace, Security, and Governance in Goal 16: How Do We Tackle

Active role of country specific democratic institutions is crucial for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Besides, the NGOs need to find a balance between providing services and advocacy with accountability to achieve the goals, says Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BIGD at Oxford University's 5th Seminar on Advancing Good Governance in international Development- Peace, Security, and Governance in Goal 16: How Do We Tackle, from 9-10 June 2016 at the Rhodes House, Oxford.

Dr. Rahman was invited as a Speaker at the event. He was one of the distinguished panelists in the closing plenary of the event: Transforming the Institutions of Global Governance: What Does Goal 16 Demand?

In his discussion, Dr. Rahman highlighted the role of country specific democratic institutions for implementing the SDGs. Agreed at the United Nations in last September, the SDGs comprise 17 goals and 169 targets aimed at resolving social, economic and environmental problems by 2030.

Referring to the current scenario of democratic institutions in Bangladesh, Dr. Rahman said that Bangladesh is an example of a nation where deeply divided interests have led to a governance vacuum. Historically, tensions between the secular segment of population and those who oppose it partly have led to political bifurcation between the ruling party (the AL), and a heterogenous opposition which represents a whole range of political interests from secular Muslims to fringe elements believed to have extremist links. In the absence of solid democratic governance institutions, changes to the equilibrium between these two groups have led to conflict.

In relation to activism, Dr. Rahman said that NGOs need to find a balance between providing services and advocacy with accountability. In an atmosphere of increased distrust, some governments have missed the opportunity to motivate and engage their own citizens. NGOs have been seen as prime movers in innovating and promoting grassroots approaches that

NGOs have been seen as prime movers in innovating and promoting grassroots approaches that embrace civil society as advocates for change. However, those same NGOs have also taken on the role of service delivery, which has diluted their activist role. On the other hand it also led to a weakening of government provision of services and responsiveness to citizens. NGOs need to rethink their role in light of these 'tensions'. NGOs need to rethink their role in light of these 'tensions'.

Mr. Amar Bhattacharya, Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development Programme, Brookings Institution, and Professor Ngaire Woods, Dean, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford were present with Dr. Rahman in the plenary.

From BIGD, Md. Harun Or Rashid, Research Associate, also participated in the Seminar as part of the Institute's capacity building and networking on the SDGs. In the Seminar, among others, Ian Goldin, Professor and Director of Oxford Martin School; Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Under Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and former Head of the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat; Ms. Saba Al Mubaslat, CEO, Humanitarian Leadership Academy; Mr. Alexander Betts, Professor of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, Oxford Department of International Development; and Mr. Phil Vernon, Director of Programmes, International Alert spoke at the event.

The annual seminar is jointly organised by Camfed International, the Oxford Department of International Development, the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at Saïd Business School, and Linklaters. It brings together thought leaders and practitioners from civil society, government, academia, and the private sector with the goal of facilitating dialogue on the topic of governance and how to make development more effective and sustainable.

BIGD Research ranked in top 20 of Bangladesh Investment Priorities list

Three research studies of BIGD were selected in a recommended list of priorities for investment by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) that would produce phenomenal benefits for the country. An eminent panel including a Nobel laureate economist and Bangladeshi economic experts announced the list in the final session of Smarter Solutions for Bangladesh conference on 12 May organized under the project Bangladesh Priorities: Smarter Solutions for Bangladesh, led by Copenhagen Consensus Centre in cooperation with BRAC's Research and Evaluation Division.

The three BIGD Research studies, E-Procurement across government (Topic-Digital Bangladesh), Land records digitization (Topic-Land administration) and Expand Village Courts (Topic-Governance and institutions) ranked

2nd, 4th and 19th respectively on the Bangladesh priorities list.

The eminent panel included Nobel laureate Professor Finn E. Kydland, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry president and founder Selima Ahmad, Bangladesh



Dr. Wahid Abdallah (second from right) before the eminent panel

Institute of Development Studies Director General Dr. KAS Murshid, and Vice Chair of BRAC Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury.

In second- and fourth-place on their prioritized list, the Eminent Panel embraced digital solutions for government. Research on E-Procurement across government by Dr. Wahid Abdallah, Research Fellow, BIGD, which ranked second shows that the cost of e-Procurement, spread across the indefinite future, is Tk 1.44 billion (Tk 144 crore). This would bring savings of an estimated Tk 52.7 billion (Tk 5,274 crore) per year. Each taka spent will achieve 663 takas of goods. Prof. Finn Kydland said, "E-procurement would be an extraordinarily powerful tool for Bangladesh. Given the low cost and the high volume of contracts handed out, this policy is deserving of real attention."

Also, a research paper titled *Digitisation of Land Records via Simplified Application Process* by Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, and Sumaiya Kabir Talukder ranked fourth in the list. The paper finds that creating electronic land records would make information easy to acquire through a publicly accessible system, and save time and money. They estimate that digitizing the land records system would provide an incredible 619 takas of benefits per taka spent. Selima Ahmad said: "Digitizing land records is the type of policy that Bangladesh should prioritize: We need to embrace the digital age and secure property rights for women and men equally to unlock economic opportunities."

Another BIGD Research study titled *Expand Village Courts* by Dr. Md. Shanawez Hossain and Research Associate Nabila Zaman ranked 19 on the list. The researchers noted that Bangladesh has a backlog of around 2.7 million cases as of 2014; rural areas may struggle to achieve justice for their most impoverished and least influential members. The researchers propose increasing the power and number of

local “village courts” so those with little legal recourse would be better represented in the legal system. Furthermore, they suggest reserving a number of seats for women.

The conference aimed to identify, analyze and prioritize development interventions that will deliver greater benefit per taka spent, helping move Bangladesh towards Vision 2021. Bangladesh Priorities uses the Copenhagen Consensus approach, used over the past ten years to improve global and regional spending priorities.

SHARIQUE Dissemination Seminar

Strengthening Committees of Upazila Parishads and Standing Committees of Union Parishads stressed



In an effort to make Committees and Standing Committees of Upazila and Union Parishads more functional, the Local Governance Programme ‘SHARIQUE’ implemented by Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation and BIGD, organised a National Dissemination Seminar with the National Institute of Local Government (NILG) on 30 May, 2016 to disseminate a working paper on the issue. The working paper combines the observations and recommendations of five individual studies conducted by SHARIQUE and NILG.

Ms. Melina Papageorgiou Trippolini, Programme Manager of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) delivered the opening remarks and Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Team Leader of SHARIQUE defined the objective of the programme. Followed by a presentation by Mr. Fazlur Rahman, Research Specialist of BIGD, a discussion was held under the facilitation of Mr. Mustafa Kamal Haider, Director General of NILG. Participants from various organizations working on local governance and local government elected representatives from SHARIQUE project areas gave their views and shared experiences on the issue. Other participants included Mr. Golam Yahya, Training Director, NILG; Mr. Md. Ilias, Research Director, NILG; local government experts Mr. Shopon Kumar Sarkar, Additional Secretary (Retd) and Former DG, MIE Wing, Local Government Division (LGD); and Mr. Azizur Rahman Siddiqui, Local Government Advisor of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

BIGD signs MoU with Access to Information (a2i) Programme

BIGD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Access to Information (a2i) Programme of Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on 21 June 2016 at Prime Minister's Office, Dhaka. Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BIGD, and Mr. Kabir Bin Anwar, Director General (Admin), PMO and Project Director, A2i Programme signed the agreement.



Under the MoU, BIGD will be conducting impact assessments and evaluations and Cost Benefit Analysis of a2i's various programmes and initiatives. BIGD will also conduct research on ideas to provide service through the a2i Programme. BIGD and a2i will also jointly organize internal workshops quarterly to discuss areas of interest, innovations and new directions.

Followed by the MoU signing ceremony, a discussion meeting was held between the delegation from BIGD and officials from a2i. In the discussion, the importance of administrative data for research purposes was stressed. It was further highlighted that such data generated in various public agencies including Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) can be shared through a2i in digitized format.

Talk by Dr Sabina Alkire at BIGD on Measuring Multidimensional Poverty held

Dr Sabina Alkire, Director, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), Department of International Development, University of Oxford visited BIGD, BRAC University on 19 May, 2016 and attended a talk in BIGD Conference Room. She delivered a presentation titled ‘Measuring Multidimensional poverty:



Dr Sabina Alkire seen at the event (right)

Insights from around the World'. BIGD Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman welcomed Dr. Sabina to BIGD and chaired the event. Among others, Researchers and Staff from BIGD were present at the event.

CPD-BIGD Roundtable on Multidimensional Poverty for Policy held

BIGD along with the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), organized a Roundtable discussion on Measuring Multidimensional Poverty for Policy on May 19, 2016 at the BRAC Centre Inn. Dr Sabina Alkire, Director, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford discussed on multidimensional Poverty for Policy and talks particularly on the aspects of multidimensional poverty in Bangladesh regarding fulfilling the target of SDG as SDG talks about the multidimensional poverty and it also talk about no one to left behind.

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BIGD and Dr. Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director of CPD co-chaired the discussion. Followed by her discussion, Dr. Alkire participated in a question and answer session with



Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Dr. Sabina Alkire and Dr. Mustafizur Rahman (from left to right) at the roundtable

the participants at the event. Among others, civil society leaders, academicians, researchers, development practitioners and representatives from government organizations attended the discussion.

Training on Government Performance Management System held

BIGD and the Cabinet Division, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) jointly hosted a 10-day training on Government Performance Management System (GPMS), held during 11-25 April 2016, at the CIRDAP Training Room, Dhaka. The purpose of the training was to help 250 representatives of all 48 Ministries/Divisions orient and train on how to design the vision, mission, objectives, and indicator based performance targets in 2016-2017 for each Ministry/Division. The training was also meant to help frame the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) of the Government and improve capacity on results based management.

Mr. N. M. Zeaul Alam, Secretary (Coordination & Reforms) and Mr. Md. Mahiuddin Khan, Additional Secretary (Reforms), both of Cabinet Division; Mr. Md. Abdul Halim, Director General, Governance Innovation Unit, PMO; Mr.

Abu Saleh Md. Ferdous Khan, Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Division; Mr. Altaf Hossain Sheikh, Deputy Secretary and Mr. Kamrul Hasan, Senior Assistant Secretary, of Cabinet Division conducted different training sessions.

The training was concluded following a closing ceremony on 25 April 2016 at the meeting room of the Cabinet Secretary. The closing event was chaired by Mr. Mohammad Shafiul Alam, Cabinet Secretary, the



Mr. Md. Mahiuddin Khan is seen facilitating training (left) & a group-work during training (right)

Government of Bangladesh. Among others, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BIGD; Mr. N. M. Zeaul Alam, Secretary; Mr. Md. Mahiuddin Khan; and Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Talukdar, Senior Programme Manager of BIGD, attended the closing ceremony. The chair concluded the training with thanks to organizers, trainers and trainees.

BIGD in cooperation with the World Bank and the Government of Bangladesh has been implementing the second phase of the project titled "Community of Practice (CoP) on Performance Management in South Asia" since July 2015 to help strengthen the performance management system of the Government.

BIGD's Strategic Plan 2016-2020

Leading experts and scholars from BRAC family, and Civil Society briefed and consulted

BIGD organized series of consultation meetings to share the key features of its draft Strategic Plan 2016-2020 with fellow colleagues from the BRAC family, and civil society leaders and incorporate their feedback.

At the first meeting, Scholars and top executives from BRAC and BRAC affiliated institutes attended the consultation meeting held on 24 May 2016 at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. BIGD Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman welcomed the distinguished participants and shared a brief



(From left to right) Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Dr. A. Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury and Barrister Manzoor Hasan at the event

overview of the draft strategic plan. Dr. A. Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Member, Advisory Council, BIGD, and Vice Chair, BRAC moderated the session. Followed by a

presentation on the strategic plan, the participants provided their observations, inputs and feedback through different sessions i.e group work and Q/A.

In the second meeting, experts and members of the civil society joined a consultation meeting held on 23 June 2016 at the rooftop of BRAC Centre, Dhaka. Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman welcomed the distinguished attendees and shared a brief overview of the draft Strategic Plan. Ms. Simeen Mahmud, Head, Gender Studies Cluster and Coordinator-CGST moderated the event. Followed by a presentation on the strategic plan, the attendees provided their observations, inputs and feedback at the meeting.

BIGD is in the process of developing a Strategic Plan to achieve its objectives and respond to the upcoming challenges. Initiated in mid 2015, this draft Strategic Plan is being prepared through a series of consultations i.e. in-house retreat, internal meetings and consultations with stakeholders etc. Some more consultations are planned with various stakeholder groups before the Strategic Plan is finalized by July 2016.

Seminar on the Political Economy of Social Protection held

BIGD organised a seminar titled the Political Economy of Social Protection in Developing Countries on 7 April 2016 at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. Dr. Syed Mansoob Murshed, Professor of the Economics of Peace and Conflict at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University in the Netherlands, presented a paper titled 'The Determinants of Social Protection Expenditure in a Cross Section of Developing Nations'. Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BIGD chaired the seminar. Among other participants, representatives from BRAC, BRAC University, James P Grant School of Public Health, SANEM, University of Dhaka, IGC, and media attended the seminar.

Seminar on Election Management held

The Governance and Politics cluster of BIGD organised an in-house Seminar on Election Management on 25 May 2016 in the BIGD conference room. Dr. Abdul Alim,



Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman and Dr. Syed Mansoob Murshed at the seminar (from left to right)

Director, Election Working Group (EWG) shared his experiences of electoral management in the developed and other developing countries in the seminar. He delivered a presentation titled 'Election Management: International Best Practices to Make Election Credible and Bangladesh.



Dr. Abdul Alim (Left) presenting his findings at the seminar

In the presentation, Dr. Alim suggested reforming the Election Commission in Bangladesh, including the recruitment process of the Election Commissioners to develop the current election system in Bangladesh. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session. Earlier, Md Harun Or Rashid, Research Associate and the Seminar Coordinator of BIGD introduced the presenter with participants. The Seminar was chaired by Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BIGD. Among others, Dr. Wahid Abdallah and Dr. Md Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellows of BIGD were present at the Seminar.

PPRP-II project updates

Divisional Workshop on Public procurement held in Chittagong

A workshop titled 'How to Engage Citizens and Ensure Social Accountability in Public Procurement' organized jointly by BIGD and Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU), IME Division of Planning Ministry was held on 28 April 2016 at the Hotel Agrabad, Chittagong. The Chittagong Divisional Workshop was held as a way to raise awareness amongst citizens and receive feedback from the local level on the Third Party Engagement piloting program. Mr. Farid Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Honorable



Distinguished guests at the inaugural session of the workshop

Secretary, IME Division, Planning Ministry, and Dr. Zafrul Islam, Lead Procurement Specialist, World Bank, attended the workshop as the Chief Guest and Special Guest respectively. Additional Deputy Commissioner (LA) of Chittagong, Mr. Md. Doulatuzzaman Khan presided over the workshop. Mr. Md. Aziz Taher Khan, Director, CPTU delivered the welcome speech at the event. Among others, Mr. Abdul Mannan, Member, Socio-Economic Infrastructure Division, Planning Commission and Dr. Mirza Hassan, Team Leader of Social Accountability Component of PPRP-II spoke at the event.

BIGD is providing the technical assistance to the CPTU to help design and implement the social accountability mechanism that aims to institutionalize and develop a third party

monitoring system in the public procurement process of the country.

Visitors from Abroad



Veronica Stepkova
PhD Research Fellow
Hong Kong Baptist University

Being a Visiting Researcher at BIGD made a significant difference to my research. I am working on migration of domestic workers from Bangladesh to Hong Kong and I must say that getting access to the highly sensitive and rich data that I have now would never be possible without the kind support of BIGD. I consider it an honour that I had the opportunity to consult my field work but also wider scientific interests with colleagues from BIGD. The environment was highly inspiring and the enthusiasm but also the effective approach to work that I could observe in the office keep driving me even when I am not there. I hope to come back soon!

Meeting with the Citizen Committee members held

Dr. Mirza M. Hasan, Adjunct Fellow; Mr. Bayezid Hasan, Senior Research Associate and Mr. Mahan Ul Hoque, Research Assistant of BIGD visited Rangpur from 18-21 April 2016, and attended several meetings for the Public Procurement Reform Project-II (PPRP-II). They held the meeting with Rangpur Executive Engineer's office to discuss about the purpose of the project and for

specific project selection purpose for Piloting. They also held meetings with Rangpur Sadar Upazila Engineers and Mithapukur Upazila Engineers, along with the Citizen Committee and ESDO programme persons.

The Citizen Committee members expressed their opinion about the selected projects considering some indicators like distance, availability of transport etc. The BIGD team also attended a meeting with Citizen Group of Rangpur Sadar and Mithapukur Upazila where there were discussions on their experiences as well as the strategy.

Second Advisory Group Meeting of PPRP II held

The second Advisory Group Meeting, organized by BIGD, was held on the 14 June 2016 at the CPTU Conference Room. The meeting was primarily held to discuss the progress of the implementation of the social accountability component under PPRP II (Extension Phase). Chaired by Ms. Parveen Akhter, Director at CPTU, the meeting was attended by the advisory group members and participants from both CPTU and BIGD.

Md. Rafiqul Islam Talukdar, Senior Program Manager of BIGD, gave a brief overview of the progress of the project. This was followed by a discussion on the piloting of the citizen engagement strategy, led by Dr. Mirza Hassan, Adjunct Fellow at BIGD and Team Leader of the Social Accountability Component of PPRP II. Two key representatives from ASOD and ESDO, the two field implementation partners of BIGD, shared their field experience, including the barriers they sometimes had to face. All the members reinforced the need to be mindful about the Citizen Committees to make sure that they did not try to manipulate the procurement system.

BIGD participated in Growth Week 2016 at LSE

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BIGD accompanied by Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, Visiting Fellow, BIGD and Commissioner, Anti Corruption Commission, Bangladesh attended the International Growth Centre's annual conference Growth Week 2016 from 1-3 June, 2016 at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Dr. Rahman is also Director of IGC's program in Bangladesh and its host partner.

Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed spoke at the Policy session - State (Political economy - Challenging environments) titled Building a well-functioning state in challenging environments. The session focused on exploring a broad range of political economy issues around building a well-functioning state, including: policies that can build trust in the government and the political process; the importance of access to information, a free media, an active civil society and a credible legal system; reducing corruption in the public sector; structuring political institutions for consensus building across diverse groups; policies for reducing conflict; and post-conflict reconstruction.

Growth Week is the annual conference of IGC and provides an opportunity for researchers and policymakers to connect and discuss contemporary and innovative growth ideas, with the aim of sharing knowledge and generating new research. The event brings together the IGC's international network of world-leading researchers, institutional partners and policymakers from partner countries in Africa and South Asia and features a series of presentations on cutting-edge economic research on economic growth, policy sessions, panel discussions and public lectures.

Visitors from Abroad

Giulia Tufano
Student, Master in Food Studies
American University in Rome

The 3-month internship opportunity with BIGD as a Visiting Researcher has given me the opportunity to meet different people of various cultural backgrounds which will definitely enrich both my professional and personal life. I am very grateful to BIGD and in particular, the Executive Director, for giving me this unique life and work opportunity! I thank all the staff and colleagues who welcomed me and gave me guidance and support in the daily challenges which I have faced here as an Italian. It was a pleasure to be part of this big BIGD family!

BIGD-EU delegation meeting held

A team of researchers from BIGD led by Dr. Md. Shanawez Hossain comprising Mr. S.M. Gubair Bin Arafat, Mr. Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Mr. Raihan Ahamed, attended a meeting with the European Union (EU) delegation on 3 April, 2016 at the BIGD Conference Room. The purpose of the meeting was to explore opportunities for future action in the sector of solid waste management, specifically highlighting the institutional and operational contexts. The delegation of the EU to Bangladesh included Mr. Nils Henning Kristensen,

International Consultant; Mr. Hugo Ribadeau Dumas, Project Coordinator, Agence Francaise de Developement; Mr. Mohammad Sifayet Ullah, Programme Manager, Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness.

CGST organized two workshops on Qualitative & Quantitative Research

The Gender and Social Transformation (CGST) at BIGD, in collaboration with the University of Manchester and funded by British Academy, organized two workshops on Qualitative Research, and Quantitative Research respectively for practitioners, lecturers, researchers with experience in empirical research on 17 and 18 May 2016. The workshops were facilitated by Dr. Wendy Olsen and Ms. Heather Piggott, both from University of Manchester.

Publications
*** Research Brief on Public Finance and Revenue Mobilization of Union Parishads**

By Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Md. Shanawez Hossain, Mohammed Misbah Uddin

Key Messages

- *LGIs' capacity needs to be strengthened*
- *Revenue potential varies across UPs*
- *Revenue raising authority should then be provided accordingly*

The study analyzed system and processes to increase revenue from local sources by assessing their capacity as well as challenges.

Key Messages

- *Untapped resources at the local level should be recognized and collected properly*

- *Innovative policy measures and increasing capacity of LGIs are essential to manage local level resources*

*** Research Brief on**
State of Accountability of the Transferred Departments at the Upazila Parishad and its Consequences for Allocation and Utilisation of Resources

By Mirza Hassan, Farhana Razzaque, Md. Bayazid Hasan, Muhammad Ashikur Rahman

Principal research objectives of this study were twofold: a) to explore the de jure but mainly de facto nature of accountability relations between officials of the transferred departments (service delivery departments) and elected representatives of the UZP at the Upazila level and b) the implications of such relationships on the process of i) allocation and ii) utilisation of resources at the local level.

*** Research Brief on**
Women's Representation in the Union Parishad

By Maheen Sultan, Bayazid Hasan, Sahida Islam Khondaker, Ahmed Asif Enam, Towhid Iqram Mahmood, Sohela Nazneen

The study addressed the lack of nuanced and context-grounded scholarship on what are the different pathways through which women gain access to political power at the local level and what enhances women's political agency (i.e. being effective representatives). It also focuses on how, when and in which areas they do exercise authority and can influence structures, processes and people to bring about change or make decisions in their favour.

****Research briefs can be found at <http://bigd.bracu.ac.bd>**

Executive Director's Activities

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD, held several meetings in the second quarter of the year 2016 with a number of distinguished personalities such as prominent academics and researchers, regarding research collaboration and other relevant issues. Among others, Dr. Rahman had meetings with Mr. Mohammad Shafiul Alam, Secretary, Cabinet Division; Mr. Farid Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary, Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), Ministry of Planning; Dr. Tawfiq-E-Elahi Chowdhury, BB, Mineral Resources Adviser to the Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh; Mr. Abdul Malek, Secretary, Local Government

Division; Dr. M Yunus, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS; Ms. Minne Bosma, Consultant Trainer, MDF Training & Consultancy Bangladesh; Mr. Shamsul Alam, Member, GED on Delta Plan 2100 Formulation Project; Mr. Joe Bolger, Evaluator, Building Capacity for the Use of Research Evidence (BCURE) programme in Bangladesh, DFID; Ms. Joanne Lai, Hub Economist Country Programme, IGC London Hub; Dr. Wendy Olsen, Professor, Manchester University; Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Country Director, Copenhagen Consensus; and Mr. Jalal Ahmed, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance; Prof. Asad Islam, Monash University; Mr. Faisal Ahmed, Senior Economic Adviser, Bangladesh Bank; Mr. Thomas Dreesen, Research Manager, Evidence for Policy Design (EPoD) at Harvard Kennedy School;

Woodruff, Professor of Economics at the University of Warwick; and Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture; Ms. Sarah Shehabuddin, Assistant Professor, Asian University for Women (AUW), Chittagong and Dr. Parul Agarwal, Associate Director-Financial Inclusion, Centre for Microfinance of the Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR).

Dr. Rahman also attended several meetings with the Oxford University, Manchester University and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung(FES)'s delegates.

Media Contributions

The Daily Star: Free and Fair UP Elections 2016: Are we there yet? By Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate, BIGD on March 28, 2016

The Daily Star: Saving the Sundarbans: The Foreign aid conundrum By Nazneen Ahmed, Programme Officer II, BIGD



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