

# Quarterly Newsletter

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## Illicit Money and Illicit Power are Influencing Public Procurement

*Experts said at the 12<sup>th</sup> PPSC meeting*



*PPSC members are seen at the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting*

Illicit money and Illicit power are adversely influencing public procurement. The procuring entities are facing various challenges during implementation of projects, especially at field level. Absence of a proper monitoring system of public procurement is one of the reasons why Bangladesh cannot ensure proper implementation of projects and its quality.

These were some of the observations of the participants at the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of Public Private Stakeholders' Committee (PPSC) under Public Procurement Reform Project II of Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) under Ministry of Planning. The meeting was held on the 8th June 2017 at the NEC Conference Room, Planning Commission Campus, which was facilitated by BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University.

Team leader of the social accountability component of PPRP-II Dr. Mirza M Hassan presented the findings of the monitoring report of pilot projects completed in two districts - Rangpur and Sirajganj - by the citizens committees. He also proposed scaling up the project nationally.

He said the citizens committees monitored the print quality and distribution of text

books in 28 schools in the two districts on the first day of the year. They also planned to monitor 19 projects (11 road construction and 8 school building construction) in these areas, but failed to monitor two projects out of the 19 due to interference by socially and politically influential persons.

Beyond the engagement of the Citizen Committees, the project was also able to successfully mobilize local communities for monitoring projects which led to conceptual and strategic innovation of a Site Specific Citizen Monitoring idea which we plan to replicate nationally, he added.

Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) Secretary in Charge Mr. Md. Mofizul Islam, who also presided over the meeting said, most citizens do not know that their money is being spent in public procurement. Increasing people's awareness regarding public procurement will reduce the influence of Illicit money and Illicit power. Monitoring by only IMED personnel is not enough, and the citizens should have a role in monitoring the development projects. He added that proper monitoring of public procurement is an important issue for successful implementation of the projects.

The government wants to ensure cent per cent transparency and accountability in public procurement.

In response to a question on formation of Citizens Committee he said, "Citizens committees should be formed with those persons, whose morals and ethics are above question. We need citizens' monitoring in purchasing of goods also, as we want to get value for money."

CPTU Director General Mr. Md. Faruque Hossain said there are various challenges in monitoring the public sector projects by citizens committees, as there is no legal provision in this regard. If the government finds third party monitoring beneficial, the relevant rules will be changed to give it a legal basis.

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BIGD; Mr. ANM Mustafizur Rahman, World Bank; Dr. Kazi Ali Toufique, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS); Mr. Ahmed Najmul Hussain, Administrative Director, BRAC; Engr. S. M. Khorshed Alam, Director, Bangladesh Association of Construction Industry; Mr. Ziaur Rahman, General Secretary, Economic Reporters' Forum also made their valuable remarks and participated in discussion.

The PPSC has been formed under the auspices of the Public Procurement Reform Project-II (PPRP-II) with representatives from business community, think tanks, and civil society organizations along with government officials, to institutionalise external monitoring and citizen engagement in different stages of public procurement.

### Well-Planned City Needs Empowered City Government

*speakers said at a workshop on Equitable Economic Growth in Sylhet*

Participants at a workshop on Equitable Economic Growth in Sylhet City urged that Sylhet be built as a planned city by implementing the master plan prepared by Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury. The participants also asked clean, healthy and hygienic environment is ensured and provision of making open

monthly coordination meeting and said that without coordination and cooperation, it is impossible to complete a single task.

Mr. Ajay Suri, Asian Regional Advisor, Cities Alliance; Consultant Dr. K. Rajivan, Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow, BIGD and Team Leader of the Project; Mr. Sarwar Jahan Chowdhury, Head of Operations, BIGD; Engineer Ruhul Alam, Chief Engineer, Sylhet City Corporation also delivered their speeches in the event. The programme was moderated by BIGD's Research Associate S M Gubair Bin Arafat.



space for playground and other entertainment facilities. They also urged to make the citizens aware regarding their rights and responsibilities. They felt the need for an empowered city government to fulfill the aspirations of city dwellers.

The kick-off workshop was held under the joint work programme titled Promoting Equitable Economic Growth in Cities as part of a global campaign. BIGD and Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) with support of Cities Alliance based in Brussels, jointly organized the workshop on May 24, 2017 in Sylhet.

The Chief Guest, Mayor Mr. Ariful Haq Chowdhury, said that the public representatives allied with the ruling party get support from the Government but the other representatives do not and now it has become a culture which needs to be changed. Coordination and cooperation among the public offices and government organizations is essential before empowering the city corporation, he added. He proposed a

Advocate Irfanujjaman Chowdhury, President, Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC); Mr. Aminul Islam Chowdhury, Sammilita Sangskritic Jote; Mr. Nasim Hossain, Sylhet City President of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP); senior politician Barrister Aarash Ali; Gourango Patro, President, Adivasi Forum (Forum of Ethnic People); Professor Tahmina Islam, Department of Social Work, Shahajalal University of Science and Technology; senior journalist Mr. Ahmed Nur; City Corporation Counselor Ms. Sahanara Begum, Ms. Dinar Khan and others also shared their valued opinion and suggestions regarding different problems of the city and their short term and long term solutions.

Recognizing the roles of cities and the challenges they present in developing countries the Cities Alliance, a global partnership for urban poverty reduction and hosted by the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and BIGD have embarked on this project. The goals of this project are (i) to promote equitable access to public goods and services in context of cities' specific needs and (ii) support growth trajectories increasingly characterized by equity, inclusion and environmental sustainability.

**Coordination and cooperation among the public offices and government organizations is essential before empowering the city corporation**



### Academy of Work Inaugurated

Academy of Work (AoW), an initiative of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Bangladesh, in collaboration with Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) and BIGD was inaugurated through a Press Conference on April 20, 2017 at a hotel in the city. The AoW is a three-month academic programme for mid-level trade unionists. It is the very first initiative in Bangladesh that enables emerging young leaders from the trade union movement to participate in an intensive cross-sector training programme in the field of industrial relations, economy and the decent work in the global supply chain in

their very own language.

Mr. Mujibul Haque, State Minister for Labour and Employment graced the event as Chief Guest. The event was attended by Michel Sommer, Vice Chairman of the FES and former President of the International Trade Union Confederation and German Confederation of Trade Unions, Dr. Thomas Prinz, German Ambassador to Bangladesh, Professor Martin Allespach from the University of Frankfurt. Mr. Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, Executive Director of BILS, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BIGD and Ms. Franziska Korn, Resident Representative of FES Bangladesh also spoke on the occasion. Prominent trade union leaders, government representatives and academicians also attended the event.



### Women's Capabilities in Education and Health Improving, but Remains Insufficient in Economic and Political Field

- says Human Development in South Asia 2016 report

In South Asia, over the last decade and a half, there has been an improvement in women's social, economic and political empowerment. However worldwide, the region fares better

in South Asia not only masks the inequality in opportunity for women both between and within countries, but also across women belonging to different socio-economic, ethnic and religious groups.



The report also suggests that despite overall progress in key indicators, the promise of the MDGs is still unfulfilled and the region needs to intensify its commitment towards meeting the SDGs aiming to complete what the MDGs did not achieve-especially targeting stubborn challenges, such as female leadership, voice and representation, as well as violence against women.

than Sub-Saharan Africa only. Progress has been considerable in improving women's capabilities through education and health, but remains insufficient in economic and political fields. Beside this, a high prevalence of the incidence of violence against women points to the inadequate implementation of laws, finds the research on 'Human Development in South Asia 2016: Empowering Women in South Asia' conducted by Mahbub ul Haq Research Centre (MHRC) of Lahore University of Management Sciences.

BIGD launched the report at a city hotel in Dhaka on May 16, 2017. The research was conducted on Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Afghanistan. The report demonstrates that, the overall picture of progress

Speaking on the women's empowerment, Chief Guest Ms. Rasheda K. Choudhury, Executive Director of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) said, there is a fundamental difference between participation and Partnership. Women in Bangladesh have progressed far in participating in various economic activities but they still lack opportunity at partnership level.

While talking about sexual violence that has happened in recent times, she described the difficulties women face in professional fields. She urged the government to increase budget in research sectors and thanked MHRC for this report, which is a reminder that there's a long way to go for women empowerment.



Mr. M Syeduzzaman, Member, Board of Advisors, MHRC said, the report is a message to revisit and update the gender question in light of development in the world. The report shows the difference among different South Asian countries on gender development, educational progress, health progress, political empowerment and employment of women.

Earlier, BIGD's ED Dr. Rahman, Ms. Rasheda K. Choudhury, Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Ms. Simeen Mahmud, Head Gender Cluster and The Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST) and Dr. Rushidan Islam Rahman, Executive Chairperson, Centre for Development and Employment Research (CDER) launched the report in front of media. Ms. Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow, BIGD made a presentation on the key finding and recommendations of the report.

Prof. Mustafizur said gender-based violence costs 2.4 per cent of the country's GDP as existing laws remain inactive to protect women from violence. Bangladesh made significant progress since 2000, especially in framing policies and laws, which eased women empowerment. But we have to monitor whether the laws and policies are implemented properly or not. He also mentioned that a large number of activities, performed by women, remain outside the national accounting system.

Ms. Mahmud said that though Bangladesh's economic growth rate was third highest in the world, its public spending in human development remained lower compared to neighboring countries.

**Bangladesh scored 0.917 in GDI to be third among the South Asian countries**

Presenting the study findings, Ms. Sultan said Bangladesh scored 0.917 in GDI to be third among the South Asian countries, while Sri Lanka secured first place scoring 0.948 and Maldives placed second on the list with 0.937 points.

Female secondary school enrollment in the region reached 63.4 per cent from 36.8 per cent within the timeframe while Bangladesh lags behind reaching 57.38 per cent. However, Bangladesh has done really well in female tertiary education enrollment attaining 32.61 per cent comparing to South Asia's average 20.10 per cent in 2013. She also showed that the female life expectancy increased from 64 to 68 years between 2000 and 2013 while the country's overall life expectancy improved to 70.7 years from 63.5 in the same period.

**Female secondary school enrollment in the region reached 63.4 per cent from 36.8 per cent within the timeframe while Bangladesh lags behind reaching 57.38 percent**

Focusing on the empowerment of poor women, Dr. Rushidan suggested improving their access to education, skill development and technology.

In conclusion, Dr. Rahman said that political commitment was vital for women empowerment and hoped that the government would maintain the success while focus on addressing the challenges that remain.

## To Provide More Accountable Service, We Need City Governance

– said Dr. Selina Hayat Ivy at a kick-off workshop

"Most of the budget of the local government is spent by unelected officials, not by the elected representatives. Budget allocations to the elected public representatives should be increased as they are accountable to the people, where the accountability of a DC or MD is very low" said Dr. Selina Hayat Ivy, Mayor, Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) at a workshop titled Equitable Economic Growth in Narayanganj City.



This kick-off workshop was organized under the joint work programme titled Promoting Equitable Economic Growth in Cities as part of a global campaign. BIGD and NCC with the support of Cities Alliance based in Brussels, jointly organized the workshop on May 18, 2017 at Narayanganj.

Dr. Ivy advocated city governance and raised the question why DESA, Titas, Police, Magistrates are not under the City Corporation? She urged all to tell the government, 'Give us city

government'. If there is no city government, a city corporation will only be able to do limited work. In a system of city government, various organizations could work under an umbrella as a whole. In addition, when these will come under the elected representatives, they will be accountable to public to discharge these responsibilities.

Presenting the 'Institutional Enabling Environment Report (IEER)' Dr. Hossain, Team Leader of the project said, '

'by analyzing the political, functional and fiscal arrangements under which Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC)

**In a system of city overnment, various organizations could work under an umbrella as a whole**

operates, this project will assist in facilitating city-level policy actions for enhancing Local Economic Development (LED) which will ultimately promote equitable access to public goods and services."

Dr. Suri, and Mr. Rajivan of Cities Alliance; Advocate Mahmudur Rahman Habib, Chief Executive Officer, NCC and Muhammad Jahangir, Media personality were also present at the workshop.

### **BIGD Researcher Attended BIDS Critical Conversation 2017**

Dr. Rahman, ED, BIGD and Ms. Mahmud, Head, Gender Studies Cluster, BIGD attended a two-day long BIDS Critical Conversation 2017, held during 23 and 24 April, 2017 at a hotel in Dhaka addressing the theme "Bangladesh Journey: Accelerating Transformation". Dr. Rahman chaired a session titled 'Sustainable Cities in Bangladesh: Issues and Strategies',

where Ms. Mahmud was a Distinguished Panelist at the session titled 'Status of Women Entrepreneurship: What have we achieved?'. The event created an opportunity for the policy makers and a broad spectrum of academics, practitioners, experts and civil society members to engage in a dialogue on the current state of development and critical challenges for the future.

### **BIGD's ED Attended the BBIN Conference**

Dr. Rahman, attended a think tank level BBIN Conference organized by Institute of Strategic and Socio-Economic Research (ISSR), held on 17-18 April 2017 at Kathmandu, Nepal. He attended there as a Speaker in a session titled 'Potential area and way forward for enhancing Cooperation at the Sub-regional level in South Asia'. Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Former Finance Minister of Nepal, chaired the session.

### **BIGD' Visiting Fellow Chaired a Session in Knowledge Fair**

Ms. Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow of BIGD chaired a session titled Societal Perspective on Gender Based Violence at a daylong knowledge fair on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

(SRHR), organized by Share-Net Bangladesh on May 3, 2017 at a city hotel. Two presentations titled 'Prevention of Violence Against Women (VAW) by engaging Male Community Support Group' and 'Young People's attitude towards Government of Bangladesh (GoB)' were presented at the session.

Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Information, GoB, inaugurated the Knowledge Fair as Chief Guest. Three scientific plenary sessions were held on three major topics, child marriage; gender based violence; and menstrual regulation. Almost 300 participants from more than 60 organizations joined the fair.

### **Technical Consultation Meeting with MoWCA**

BIGD, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Ministry of Women and Child Affairs (MoWCA) organized a technical Consultation with the ministry/ Government officials of the selected sectors on 20 June, 2017 at Bangladesh Sishu Academy. The meeting was organized to finalize the Report of Gender Equality Diagnostics of Selected sectors. Ms. Sultan, Visiting Fellow of BIGD presented the findings of the report. Ms. Nasima Begum ndc, Secretary of MoWCA chaired the session.

### **Visitors from Abroad**

'During my time here so far, I have been given the unique opportunity to be part of the Cities Alliance project, which aims to promote equitable economic growth in cities. Being part of this project has enabled me to travel to different city corporations in Bangladesh, partake in workshops, and meet local government officials. BIGD hosts a number of interesting events and discussions, which I have had the opportunity to attend, such as the launching of the 'Human Development Report in South Asia 2016:

Empowering Women in South Asia'. In addition, I have been responsible for reviewing reports, working on a paper on fragile states and another on refugee protection, using the case of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. I am grateful to be a part of BIGD and look forward to learning more from the great team and collaborating further in the future.'



**Chiara Merritt**  
Masters in Conflict  
Security and Development  
King's College London

### MPSM Activities Workshop on Research Methodology

BIGD organized a workshop on Research Methodology for the students of Masters in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM) on May 10, 2017. This workshop was planned to provide knowledge and skills in advance research methodology to the students for keeping up with new trends in research methodology in their respective disciplines. The workshop mainly focused on those students who will work on their dissertation for the Summer semester 2017. Prof. Niaz Ahmed Khan, Academic Fellow; Mr. Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Senior Research Associate and Lecturer; and Mr. Md. Mahan Ul Hoque, Research Associate of BIGD facilitated the workshop.

MPSM programme is to sensitize and build up the capacity of officials of public sector, NGOs as well as officials and executives from the private sector on procurement and supply management issues.

### CIPS Activities

Mr. Tony Davies, Training Specialist of the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS), visited BIGD on April 15, 2017, to conduct some sessions and prepare the students for the upcoming examinations of the CIPS Professional Diploma in Procurement and Supply. The participants of the 7th batch under Public Procurement Reform Project (PPRP) II attended those sessions. BIGD became the key partner in delivery of CIPS component under PPRP-II of the Ministry of Planning of Bangladesh Government in 2010. BIGD is the first registered study and exam centre for CIPS qualification in Procurement and Supply Chain Management in Bangladesh since 2010.

From May 15 - 19, 2017, global examination of the CIPS was held at BIGD. 25 participants of different organizations attended the examination. 59 participants from different private sector also took part in the examination. The result of this global examination will be published in August 2017.

### Field Visit of MAGD-8 Held

Students from 8<sup>th</sup> batch of MA in Governance and Development (MAGD) visited the rural areas of Savar, Birulia as a part of the course

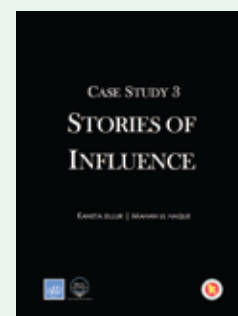


titled GOV 640: Learning from People: Methods and Innovations under Professor Golam Samdani Fakir, on May 7-8, 2017. The students were divided into four groups and focused on four areas of BRAC development projects respectively (1) DABI (2) SME (3) Health (4) Education. Different research tools including PRA

(Participatory Rural Appraisal) were used in this visit. Mr. Md. Khorshed Alom, Department Coordination Officer, Mr. Muhammad Ashikur Rahman, Mr. S. M. Gubair Bin Arafat and Ms. Farhana Razzaque, Research Associate of BIGD facilitated the visit. Later, the students made (group wise) presentations and reports.

MAGD is designed to enhance knowledge and skills of individuals, so that they can elevate themselves, above on to a broader environment and acquire, necessary skills to confront the complexities of development in the context of their societies, against the backdrop of increased globalization.

### Publication



#### Case Study

Stories of Influence  
by  
Kaneta Zillur and  
Mahan Ul Haque

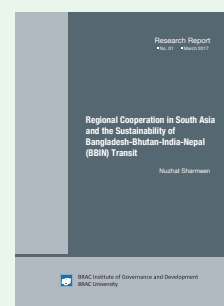
<http://bigd.bracu.ac.bd/images/PPRP/PPR-Case-Study-3.pdf>



#### Policy Note

Rethinking Citizen Engagement in  
Public Procurement: Towards a  
Sustainable Community Centered  
Strategy

by  
Mirza Hassan and Kaneta Zillur  
<http://bigd.bracu.ac.bd/images/PPRP/PPR-Policy-note3.pdf>



#### Research Report

Regional Cooperation in South Asia  
and the Sustainability of the  
Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal  
(BBIN) Transit

by  
Nuzhat Sharmeen  
[bigd.bracu.ac.bd/images/2017/Research\\_Report/Research-Report-01-Final.pdf](http://bigd.bracu.ac.bd/images/2017/Research_Report/Research-Report-01-Final.pdf)



### Award Giving Ceremony of MCIPS



The Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS), UK, awarded the participants of cohort 5 & 6 for achieving the MCIPS degree. The main purpose of the ceremony was to celebrate the success of the participants which held on June 18, 2017 at a city hotel in Dhaka. A total 50 number of Government of Bangladesh officials through the Public Procurement Reform Project (PPRP II) implemented by CPTU, IMED was awarded at the ceremony.

Mr. Howard James Selden, International Development Adviser of CIPS hosted the programme and delivered the welcome speech. Ms. Rajashree Paralkar, Acting Country Director of World Bank Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Faruque Hossain, Director General, CPTU, Mr. Md. Mofizul Islam, the Secretary in Charge of IMED and Dr. Rahman, ED of BIGD also spoke at the ceremony.

### Dr. Wahid Abdallah presented paper at International Public Policy Conference



The International Public Policy Organization has organized their biennial International Public Policy Conference which was hosted by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore on June 28-30, 2017. More than 250 panels were held in twenty topics where researchers around the

world presented and discussed their work. Dr. Wahid Abdallah, Research Fellow & Head, Governance and Politics Cluster of BIGD presented two papers in the conference, one on the effect of electronic procurement and the other on public private partnership. He has also shared his research work in a session organized by UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence (UNDP GCPSE).

### BIGD's Research Fellow presented paper at 26<sup>th</sup> IAFFE Annual Conference

Ms. Lopita Huq, Research Fellow of BIGD presented a paper titled "Paradox of Change in Women's capabilities: Case of Two Villages in Bangladesh" in the session on "Deprivation vs. Empowerment". The paper was presented at the 26th IAFFE Annual Conference titled "Gender Inequalities in a Multipolar World" organized by the International Association for Feminist Economics at Sungshin Women's University, Seoul, South Korea from 29<sup>th</sup> June - 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017. Renowned economists and other distinguished personalities also attended the conference.

### Researcher's Other Activities

- Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow of BIGD participated in the Sharing and Validation Workshop of SDC Local Economic Development Project in Bangladesh, organized by Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh on April 13, 2017. He also delivered a Lecture on the topic "Urbanization and Urban Transport Governance in Bangladesh" in a course titled Master in Environmental Management in Independent University (IUB) as a Guest Lecturer on April 8, 2017.
- Ms. Sahida Khondaker attended the findings sharing of a Qualitative Assessment Study on Adolescent Friendly Health Corners (AFHCs) in Selected Government Health Facilities in Bangladesh conducted by Population Council, held on April 26, 2017.
- Dr. Shanawez appeared in an interview of a TV Channel named News24TV on Traffic and Public Transport of Dhaka City Based on BIGD State of Cities Report, 2016 on April 26, 2017.
- Dr. Shanawez delivered an online guest lecture for the students of RMIT University, Australia on the topic, 'Traffic and Transportation in Dhaka, Bangladesh- Governance Perspective' for the Course, 'Urbanisation Issues in the Asia Pacific Region' under the UN Habitat Project: State of Cities in the Asia Pacific Region, on April 28, 2017.
- Dr. Shanawez, Ms. Maheen, Visiting Fellow; Ms. Sahida, Ms. Sadia Mustafa and Nuzhat Sharmeen, Research Associates of BIGD attended the sessions titled "Can Bangladesh Continue to Grow without 'Good Governance'?" and "Status of Women Entrepreneurship: What Have We Achieved?" at the BIDS Critical Conversations 2017.
- Ms. Simeen Mahmud, Ms. Maheen, Ms. Sahida and Ms. Nuzhat attended the F.I.M. Nurul Abedin and Anjuman Ara Begum Memorial Lecture 2016 in Asiatic Society Bangladesh on May 2, 2017.
- Ms. Mahmud, Ms. Maheen and Ms. Sahida attended the International Conference titled 'Rewarding Gender Boundaries in Literary Terrains', organized by Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University on May 19, 2017.
- Ms. Nuzhat attended a session on Knowledge Platform on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, organized by Share-Net Bangladesh on May 3, 2017.
- Dr. Wahid Abdallah attended a two-day UNODC Anti-Corruption Academic Expert workshop on 13-14 June 2017 organised by Centre for Law & Business, National University of Singapore, Singapore.

BIGD's ED Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman had several meetings in the second quarter of 2017 with a number of distinguished personalities such as prominent academics, policy makers and researchers regarding the research collaborations and other relevant issues of BIGD.

Development Bank (ADB); Dr. Fouzul Kabir, Managing Director, Keystone Consultant Ltd; Mr. Faruque Hossain Director General, CPTU; Ms. Paula Steele, Global Public Sector Manager- Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS); Ms. Sunhwa Lee, ADB's Principal Social Development Specialist; Mr. Bruno Carrasco, Director, Finance and Governance, South Asia Department, ADB, Manila; Mr. Peter D'Souza and Dr. Stuart Davies, Senior Economic Adviser of Department for International Development (DFID) Bangladesh; Mr. Zahidur Rahman, Senior Manager, Programme Operation, BRAC; Ms. Hasina Mushrofa, Program Head, Urban Development, BRAC; Mr. Howard James Selden, International Development Advisor, CIPS; Mr. Ali

Ahmed, CEO, Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI); Mr. Khandker Wahedur Rahman, Lecturer of Bangladesh Army University of Science and Technology; and Dr. Shamsul Alam, Senior Secretary & Member, GED.

He also attended as a discussant in a Roundtable organized by Resolve Network. Dr. Rahman also visited the BRAC Learning Centre to meet with the Academy of Work (AoW) participants along with Ms. Franziska Korn, Resident Representative, FES Bangladesh and Mr. Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, Executive Director, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS). He also attended several Skype and Dinner meetings.

New Age: The costs of traffic congestion: By Nabila Zaman, Research Associate, BIGD on June 20, 2017

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