

October 2011

ARC Updates

SDSM (Statistical Downscaling Model) Workshop

A two-day training workshop on "*Statistical Downscaling for Developing Climate Change Scenarios*" was held on October 26-27, 2011 in BRAC University, as a part of the research project under Inspire. Loughborough University and Department of Architecture in collaboration with Center for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) under the BRAC University has arranged the workshop, which was funded by the British Council.



The training workshop was conducted by **Dr Robert Leonard Wilby**, Professor, Department of Geography and **Dr Christian Dawson**, senior lecturer, Department of Computer Science, Loughborough University. Twenty seven participants from twelve different organizations such as

IUCN Bangladesh, Institute of Water Modelling, Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO), MoWR, Dhaka, Centre for Environmental and Geographic information Services (CEGIS), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bindura University of science Education (BUSE) Zimbabwe, Dhaka University, State University of Bangladesh, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), BRAC University attended the workshop.

Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University was present in the inauguration ceremony which was held on 26th October morning in BRAC centre INN. After the inauguration, main sessions of the workshop were held in the Computer lab of the Department of Architecture, BRAC University.

In closing session of this training, **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University distributed the certificates to participants. **Ben Isaac**, Project Delivery Manager, British Council, Dhaka, **Professor Fuad H Mallick**, Chairperson of the Department of Architecture, BRAC University were present at this closing session.

Students and teachers of Architecture take part in a multi- University project on Beltola slum, Dhaka

22 students of the Departments of Architecture, Water Management and Geography from Hogeschool van Amsterdam, HvA [architecture, water management], BRAC University [architecture], Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology, AUST [architecture], Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, BUET [water management] and University of Dhaka [geography] had embarked on a collaborative research project titled 'architecture, urbanism and water management of low cost housing in the Beltola Slum, Mirpur, Dhaka'. They were guided by Prof. Bert van der Weil and Rutger Hogezaand [HvA], Prof Zainab Faruqi Ali and K. Hasibul Kabir [BRACU], Prof. Nazem [CUS, University of Dhaka], Shuja Khan, Shezad Zahir, Imran [AUST].

This is one of those rare projects where various university students join to work on a collaborative research project. In small multidisciplinary teams, they surveyed the slum on various aspects for a week. The second week was spent on workshops at AUST and BRACU leading to design suggestions on improved architecture,



urbanism and water management for the site. At the final presentation of their projects on 26 October 2011 at CB 901, **Professor Ainun Nishat**, the Vice Chancellor, Chairperson, Department of Architecture, teachers of the participating universities, students and representatives of the Beltola slum were present. The teams are now preparing a publication on this special work.

Architectural assistant

Suhailey Farzana joined as an Architectural assistant in the department on 2nd October, 2011. She completed her Bachelor of Architecture (BArch.) program from BRAC University in summer 2011. Her final year thesis project was "Center for Contemporary Art". She studied in USA as an exchange student under the program of "The Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders Program" in summer 2008. Her internship was in "Vastu-shilpa Consultant", the office of renowned Indian Architect **B V Doshi**. She is also very actively involved in youth based social organization name "Community Action".

CfL Updates

CfL conducted English in Schools (EiS) workshops



Three workshops have been conducted for the English in Schools (EiS) project by the faculty members of BRAC University Centre for Languages (BRACU-CfL) at Comilla, Madhupur and Srimangol BRAC Learning Centre (BLC) in October

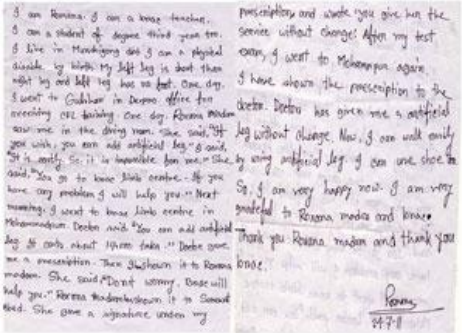
2011. EiS is a project that manages to prepare and publish English language learning materials in The Daily Star for the secondary school students. CfL has been working with EiS for more than one year and thus it gathered enough experience of preparing newspaper based English learning materials. At the same time CfL wants to take it further. Accordingly, the purposes of the workshop have been decided to know the magnitude of familiarity of EiS pages among the stakeholders, measures to be taken for adequately effective material designing and expected steps to be initiated to reach these pages to the grassroots level. The workshops included English teachers and students of the secondary schools, BRAC 'Chhatra Bandhu', 'Gono Kendo' librarians, PACE managers and programme organizers. During the workshop, participants spontaneously worked to bring out the ways to enhance usage of EiS pages, in particular, how the pages can be brought in classrooms teaching to supplement the existing English of school level textbooks.

Sunjida Afrin Khan presented paper at Sydney University



Sunjida Afrin Khan, faculty member of Centre for Languages (CfL), presented a paper titled "Linguistic Chauvinism Constraining Linguistic Right of Indigenous Children in Nation States: Cases of Bangladesh and Australia" in the 5th International Free Linguistics Conference at The University of Sydney. The conference was organized by the Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Arts, School of Letters, Media, and Sydney

University Linguistics Society from October 8-9, 2011. In her paper she argues how exclusionary education policy can lead to the inevitable corollary of violation of elementary linguistic rights. In particular, linguistic constrain can be one of the reasons for the major drop out of indigenous children from the primary level of education whose mother tongue is not Bangla. She has also addressed the linguistic situation of Australia where the policy has failed to ensure linguistic right for the children in the Northern Territory who are monolingual in a language other than English, which can cause death of the rest of the endangered Indigenous languages in Australia.



It's beyond training!

The letter has been written by **Ms. Romana** who attended BPS Teacher Training, the cycle one for the session 2010-2011, run by BRAC University Centre for Languages.



BEP Teacher Training Certificate Awarding at Devpro Centre

The certificate giving ceremony of BEP Teacher Training was held on October 22, 2011 at Dev-Pro centre, Gulshan. Similar three other programmes were arranged at BRAC Learning Centers (BLC) in Faridpur, Bogra and Comilla on the same date. More than two hundred teachers of

BRAC schools received certificates for successful completion of the training program managed and conducted by BRAC University Center for Languages (BRACU-CfL). **Dr. Shafiqul Islam**, Director, BRAC Education Programme and **Profulla Chandra Barman**, Program Manager, BRAC Primary School were

present on the occasion at Dev-Pro centre. Some faculty members of Centre for Languages and BRAC Learning Division (BLD) also attended the ceremony. Two of the participants delivered their speech on achieved experience throughout the training. The participants were profoundly happy to receive certificates as the token of recognition of their success and hence, they shared commitment to follow the learning with their students.

Workshop on Communication Skills at CfL

CfL organized a workshop on "Developing effective Communication skills" at BRAC University on 31 October 2011. **Dr. Rozana Huq**, Director, RHM Training, UK conducted the workshop for the faculty members of CfL. Some senior staff of the university also attended the session. Rozana Huq is a communication expert who achieved her PhD Doctorate from Queen's University Management School Belfast, UK, in 2007. She worked as a freelance management consultant before she set up her own company RHM Training in 1994. She has also taught Organizational Behaviour on the MBA course at the Queen's University, Belfast. However, the workshop tried to focus on the importance and procedures of enhancing communication skills at different levels. The session was very interactive and educative for the participants.

A Session on Grooming & Etiquette

A session on "Grooming & Etiquette" was held on 1 October, 2011 in Markuli hall of Savar Residential Campus. The session was facilitated by three faculty members of CfL, **Ms. Farrah Jabeen**, **Mr. Kazi Mafizur Rahman** and **Mr. Ashik Sarwar**. The session was participatory in nature and the discussion mainly focused on students' appropriate manners in public places, dining etiquettes and proper way of living in a community.

The session encouraged students to be concerned about their self-esteem to create a positive learning environment, boost up their confidence and maintain social etiquettes. Some videos were also projected to acquaint students with basic dining propriety in formal situations followed by their participation. **Mr. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury**, the Campus Superintendent, concluded the session by inviting students to follow an appropriate way of living in the society.

Meet the Cultural Personality

On October 27, 2011 a music evening took place at Markuli Hall, Savar Campus. The purpose of this session was to introduce students with the evolution of Bangla music as part of the lecture on culture from Bangladesh Studies Course. The prominent cultural personalities **Md. Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury Moyna** and **Chaya Karmakar** facilitated the session successfully. They performed songs from 'Charyapada', 'Padabali', 'Kirton angik', 'Pancha Kabi' and modern phases. They also discussed on the evolution of Bangla songs. The students were very enthusiastic and participated spontaneously.

Counseling Unit Updates

Workshop



On 20th October 2011, Thursday, the Counseling Unit arranged their first workshop of this semester entitled 'Towards a Peaceful & Productive Life: A Unique Opportunity'. The main motto of this workshop was to develop the awareness about this service and to break the stigmas and demystify the process of counseling. The target participants of the workshop were

the students. The session started with a **Mousumi Bhowmik** song 'Ami Sunechhi Sedin Tumi' and later the participants were asked to explain the lyrics and to find out its relevance with Counseling. Then the key facilitator of the workshop **Farida Akhtar**, the consultant of Counseling Unit, shared few cases where students close to the participants' age of other universities were helped from counseling. Then few PowerPoint slides were presented by three counselors **Shami Suhrid**, **Sumaiya Anwar** and **Farjana Abedin** which covered what is counseling, steps it follows in the process, what is not counseling, effects of counseling, difference between psychiatrist and psychologist etc. After that, different psychological needs were discussed by reading out a poster. At the end, a mini 'imaginary relaxation' was done with the song 'Kothao Amar Harie Jawar Nei Mana' playing in the background. Finally, all the participants were given an evaluation sheet to fill up where they wrote their impression over the workshop and proposed topics for future seminars or workshops. There were about 100 students participated in the 1 and half hour workshop that could make students more enthusiastic about the counseling service at BRAC University.

Postering on awareness

In the second week of this October the Counseling Unit made a poster and pasted that throughout the varsity that covered not only the concerned areas regarding counseling but also the process it follows within its professional framework. The poster also contained the basic information to avail the service. The main purpose again behind this postering was to raise the awareness and break the stigmas towards counseling.

Visiting Medha Bikash Kendro

Like the previous semester the counseling unit visited Medha Bikash Kendro on 24th October where they took a whole day session for



the underprivileged students coming from rural but successful academic background. In the session, the counselors tried to cover the topics like stress, anxiety, depression, academic issues etc. The unit also provided individual counseling sessions for the students who had the need.

Visiting departments



As part of spreading the news of the service of counseling unit and the workshop, the unit visited the department of Architecture on the third week this month where we went into as many as four classes and talked to the students for few minutes. We also visited the class of the course of Psychology in the department of ESS to invite them in the workshop and let them know about the unit and its services. This journey started with visiting the

Centre for Languages on 23rd of June, 2011. The faculties and counselors were involved in a fruitful discussion on how to make the students more aware of the service, how to refer students and so on. From the discussion, the forum came up with a decision that the counselors will be given the opportunity to visit the classes to build a better rapport with the students and find out the ones who can be benefited by the counseling service. The next meeting was held at JPG School of Public Health on 29th of June, 2011. This time the Counseling Unit delivered a brief presentation on 'What is counseling', highlighting the misconceptions of counseling and the real meaning of it. The presentation also covered the symptoms of stress, anxiety and depression that a student might suffer from and also the issue of confidentiality as a basic principle of counseling. After the presentation the faculties shared their experiences where they thought this service has a lot to offer to. The unit discussed the referral system and the contact information for further engagements.

CSO Updates

PROJECT MANAGEMENT GLOBAL STANDARD-EMERGING TRENDS (An International Recognition for your Expertise in Project Management)



With coordination of Career Services Office (CSO), **Mr. Nitin Shende**, PMP (PMI-USA), QPMP (IPMA-D), DBM (ICS, UK), Qualified (ISO) Lead Auditor, conducted a seminar on 'Project Management' at BRAC Business School Conference

room, BRAC University on October 11, 2011. **Ms. Ismat Shereen**, Head, Career Services Office, BRACU opened the session and talked on the importance of the topic that should be followed in all level of professional life as well as personal life to be successful. The major topics discussed in the seminar were, Understanding processes and knowledge areas, common project management terminology, management concepts/ framework, recognizing the expertise in project management, organizational impact, and practical application of process oriented approach, etc. Students from BBS department participated in the seminar and enjoyed extensively. The participants learned many things from the seminar which may be useful in course of their life to make everything easy, stay focused, and plan everything ahead in order to achieve success. By using the knowledge for having success, the participants would be able to chalk out short term & long term objectives throughout their life. At the end of the seminar **Mr. Nitin Shende**, took part in a Q&A session with the students. His advice towards the students is to stay committed and also to seek out the particular area of interest which the students think, that they can use it as their skill in professional career growth.

UNIQLO Career Seminar

BRAC University Career Services Office (CSO) and UNIQLO, a Japanese casual-clothing chain owned by the Fast Retailing Company Ltd, jointly organized a seminar on October 15, 2011 at the Indoor Auditorium of BRAC University. Around 100 students of the final semester from BBS Department attended the program. **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, Registrar, BRACU attended the seminar



as chief guest. **Ms. Ismat Shereen**, Head Career Services Office, BRACU delivered the welcome address and explained the role of Career Services Office. **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury** shared his views about the current job market with words of encouragement to the students. **Mr. Yoichi Takanashi**, Human Resources, Recruiting and Training of UNIQLO introduced all the team members from the company and started his presentation by explaining the background, objectives, vision and employment opportunities at UNIQLO. **Mr. Shingo Sato**, Manager, discussed elaborately about the global and local hiring process of UNIQLO. He also shared the experience of setting up a joint venture of 'Fast Retailing' to make fabric and garments for its Uniqlo casual clothing chain in Bangladesh which is a part of plans to create a global supply network to support the roll-out of its stores around the world. The program was ended up with a Q&A session with **Mr. Yoichi Takanashi**.

PSDP, Orientation Session Fall 2011



Orientation Session for Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) was held on October 23, 2011 at the Indoor Auditorium of BRAC University. Out of 156 registered students, a number of 140 attended this Program. **Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro-VC, BRACU attended the seminar as chief guest and was the key speaker of the session. **Ms. Ismat Shereen**, Head Career Services Office, BRACU opened the session and delivered presentation on the objectives of PSDP. Three sections have been opened for PSDP, Fall 2011. **Mrs. Ferdousi Begum**, Head of Retail Banking Unit, Trust Bank Limited; **Md. Sharif Bin Mohiuddin**, Executive - HR Executive, Augere Wireless Broadband Bangladesh Limited, and **Mr. Mehraj Hamid**, Associate Director, HR, BRAC, will be the resource personnel for this three sections.

IGS Updates

IGS organized a workshop on the State of Cities (SOC) Report on 5 October 2011 in the IGS conference room. The workshop was attended by the research team and peer reviewers for different chapters of the SOC. Following presentation by the respective chapter authors, peer reviewers gave their comments. **Dr. Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman**, **Dr. Iftekhar Iqbal**, **Dr. Ferdous Jahan**, **Dr. Jalal Alamgir**, **Dr. Simeen Mahmud** and **Dr. Kishore Kumar Singh** were present at the workshop as peer reviewers. IGS is pleased to have **Mr. Naimur Rahman** as the newly appointed Chief Operations Officer at the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region (ANSA SAR) based at IGS in October 2011. His areas of expertise are knowledge management and strategic leadership in development programs. Prior to joining in IGS, **Mr. Rahman** was the Director of One World South Asia and Managing Director of One World Foundation, India. An engineer by training, **Mr. Rahman** brings with him over twenty years of professional experience in the development sector. After joining IGS, **Mr. Rahman** gave a speech at the National Credibility Alliance in Delhi on "CSOs in the Changing Socio-economic Political scenario" - especially in the context of Governance Accountability in October 2011.

Dr. Kaveri Gill, Senior Program Officer, Think Tank Initiative and **Stephen J. Mcgurk**, Regional Director of IDRC visited IGS during 24-25 October for annual monitoring of the utilization of IDRC Think Tank fund. After two days of discussion with different teams at IGS, IDRC team made a presentation regarding findings of TTI Policy Community Survey on Think Tanks in Asia. **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, the Director of IGS delivered three lectures at the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center (BPATC) in October 2011. These are- lecture on Policy Implementation and Evaluation under Foundation Course for the probationers, Policy Analysis Exercise under Senior Staff Course for the Joint Secretaries and Public Sector Reforms under Advanced Course on Administration and Development (ACAD) for the Deputy Secretaries.

MNS Updates

Book publication



A book entitled "Bongshogoti Bidyar Mulkotha O Gene Prokoushol" was published in a ceremony on Oct 1, 2011 at the Center for Excellence, University of Dhaka. **Dr. ASM Arefin Siddique**, Vice Chancellor of the University of Dhaka chaired the book launching programme. Many eminent scientists and academicians including **Prof. Haseena Khan**, **Prof. Zeba I. Seraj**, **Prof. Rakha Hari Sarker** wrote 42 chapters on various aspects of molecular biology,

biotechnology and classical genetics. Distinguished scientist **Prof. Ahmed Shamsul Islam** is the Editor of this book. A chapter in this book entitled "Udbhit Gene Prokoushol: Agrobacterium Poddhoti" has been contributed by **Dr. Aparna Islam**, Assistant Professor, Biotechnology Programme. The chapter consists of various plant genetic transformation techniques with emphasis on Agrobacterium-mediated method, its limitations and factors influencing its efficiency. The book has been accepted as a text book at the University of Dhaka and Open University, Dhaka.

Annual Progress Review Meeting of BAS-USDA PALS Projects

The Annual Progress Review Workshop of 20 research projects funded by the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences under the BAS-USDA Programme in Agricultural and Life Sciences was held at the seminar room of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, Agargaon, Dhaka on 15-17 October 2011. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury**, Coordinator, Biotechnology and Microbiology Programme, **Dr. Aparna Islam**, Assistant Professor, Biotechnology Programme and **Mr. Reajul Hossain**, lecturer participated in the Annual Progress Review Workshop of BAS-USDA PALS. In the meeting annual progress of a total of 20 projects were presented by the respective Chief Investigators including **Prof. Haseena Khan**,

Prof. Zeba I Seraj, Dr. Lutful Kabir and many other scientists from different research organizations and universities. A number of experts were invited for reviewing the progress and suggesting modifications in the projects under implementation. The Workshop was moderated by **Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury**, Coordinator, Biotechnology Programme and Secretary of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS). **Dr. Aparna Islam** presented progress of work done under the project entitled "Production of farmer popular tomato tolerant to environmental stresses like salinity (project cost Tk 59.00 lakh). A three year long project under this fund commenced in Oct 2010 with Dr. Islam as Principal Investigator and **Prof. Zeba I Seraj** as Co-principal Investigator. In the concluding session, chaired by **Prof. M Shamsheer Ali**, and National Emeritus Scientist **Dr. Kazi M. Badruddoza** as the Chief Guest, **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury** presented all the recommendations adopted against each of the projects and advised the Principal Investigators to plan their work for the second year in the light of the recommendations which would be communicated to them by the Academy.

Tidal and Wave Power Generation for Practical Demonstration and Utilization along the Coastal Belt of Bangladesh

Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad presided over the Inaugural Ceremony and Technical Session of the above-mentioned seminar which was organized by National Oceanographic and Maritime Society (NOAMI) on Saturday the 22nd October, 2011 at auditorium of the Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka (AECD). **Professor Dr. A. K. Azad Choudhury**, Chairman, (State Minister), University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) was the Chief Guest. His Excellency, Mr. Svend Olling, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to Bangladesh was the Special Guest. The key note paper was presented by **Mr. Abdul Matin Mondal**. Project Director assisted by **Professor Md. Kamrul Alam Khan**, Associate Investigator of the project.

Researchers and professionals from different universities and R / D organizations participated in the seminar. After the presentation of the keynote paper lively discussion took place.

The Dean's Award Ceremony, University of Dhaka



Students of Biological Science Faculty received University of Dhaka Dean's Award for their outstanding academic results in the Bachelor of Sciences (B.Sc. Honours) examinations held in 2007, 2008 and 2009, respectively. One of them, **Ms. Sadia Sayed**, is now a lecturer in the MNS Department of BRAC University. She joined BRACU in September, 2011 and currently teaching in the Biotechnology program. Earlier, she successfully completed Master of Sciences

(M.S.) in Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology from the University of Dhaka. The award was given at a program organized at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) on the campus of DU on Saturday, October 22, 2011. Dean of the Biology Faculty **Professor Shahid Akhter Hossain** presided over the program and **Professor Harun-Or-Rashid**, pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka distributed the crests and certificates among the winners. Among others, Treasurer **Professor Mijanur Rahman** and Dean's Award Committee Convener **Professor Azizul Haque** were also present on the occasion.

Meeting on Five Year Action Plan on Industrial Biotechnology

A half-day long meeting on "Five Year (2011-2015) Action Plan on Industrial Biotechnology" was held on Oct 31, 2011 at the BRACU University. **Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Dr. Mahboob Hossain, Dr. Aparna Islam, Ms. Jebunessa Chowdhury, Ms. Farzana Ahmed, Ms. Sadia Sayed and Mr Riajul Hossain** attended the meeting from BRAC



University. The Meeting was jointly organized by BRAC University and Ministry of Industries (MoInd), GoB. The discussion was chaired by **Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury**, Coordinator, Biotechnology and Microbiology Programme while coordinated by **Mr. Tapan Kumar Nath**, Deputy Secretary, MoInd. Personnel from various ministries, NARS institutes, universities attended the meeting. Through active participation of the members several suggestions of additions and modifications were made on the drafted Action Plan. **Prof. Choudhury** suggested major modification in the Action Plan document presented in the Meeting, like inclusion of implementing agencies/institutes, time frame for implementation and taking up few research topics in the light of the national biotechnology policy and the need of our country. The meeting appreciated and accepted all these suggestions. The Concluding Session was chaired by **Professor Aninun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. **Prof. Ainnun** in his concluding remarks expressed full cooperation from the BRAC university side in such endeavor to see industrial biotechnology booming in Bangladesh.

Pharmacy Updates

"Pharma Society" Club orientation

Department of Pharmacy and student club "Pharma Society" jointly organized Club member orientation program on 27th October, 2011 at UB 0201 room. All Pharmacy faculty members and students of Pharmacy were participated in the program. President and Secretary of "Pharma Society" introduce the club members and mention their current activities and future plan. The club advisor **Shahana Sharmin** welcomed all members and expressed the need to work

together as team in her speech. Later student were enjoyed a short cultural program and refreshment.

Paper accepted at International conference, Malaysia and USA

Two papers have been accepted at the International conference by the chairperson **Prof. Dr. Ashik Mosaddik**. First paper entitled "Polymethoxyflavone Rich Citrus (Dangyuja) Leaf Extract Induces Apoptosis in Human Cervical Carcinoma, HeLa Cells" has been accepted at International Conference on Natural Products (ICNP 2011) Metabolomics - A New Frontier in Natural Products Science that will be held 13-16 November, Palm Garden Hotel, IOI Resort, Malaysia organized by Institute of Bioscience and Faculty of Science, Universiti Putra Malaysia and Malaysian Natural Products Society. Another paper entitled "antioxidant activity of a hplc-ms/ms fingerprinted ethyl acetate fraction derived from cattley guava leaf and its potential activity towards H₂O₂ induced DNA damage in HepG2 cells" has been accepted as a poster at 50th Anniversary of the Phytochemical Society of North America on December 10-15 at Hawaii organized by College of Pharmacy, University of Hawaii at Hilo.

New Teaching assistant join at Pharmacy

Mr. Anmul Haque has joined the Department of Pharmacy on 24th October 2011 as Teaching assistant.

Pharmacy faculty received NST project fund

Two faculty members **Ronok Zahan** and **Shahana Sharmin**, Lecture of pharmacy Department has received a grant from Science & Technology Division. Ministry of Science and ICT (MOSICT) project fund for the year 2011-2012. **Ronok Zahan** will work on "Anticancer drug" and **Shahana Sharmin** will conduct her research on "Evaluation of the quality of some frequently prescribed drugs (oral liquid dosage forms) for children". Heartiest congratulations to both of them and good luck.

Research and Development

Pharmacy development has started to renovate the allocated space at 18th floor of Aarong Building to establish a advanced research lab on Pharmaceutical Sciences. The lab design has been completed and construction work is now going on.

RS Updates

A New Bulletin Board for the RS activities

A RS Bulletin Board has been set up in front of the logistics office to showcase the RS activities to any visitors at Savar campus. The board will hold the weekly reports of the RS extracurricular activities: Happy Reading, Drama, Quiz, Know the Country and Culture, Debate, Creative Writing, Chinese Language, Design for Change, Spelling Bee, Wall Magazine and the newly introduced Korean Language.

Moral Day Celebrated at Savar Campus



A Moral Day was celebrated on 20 October, 2011 at Savar Campus with special programmes and activities which recognized students' achievements in those areas. The day included displaying virtue cards on a tree shaped board, exhibition of morality related pictures and cartoons, articles (paper searching on current issues), ethical talk show and the presentation of documentaries on moral issues. Moreover, the day was also referred to as a Key Virtue Day and No Lie Day. The activity was followed by a show of a popular theatre titled "Digonto Surjo" performed, on a stage built in Duranto field, by BRAC popular theatre group from Bogra. The content of the show included good governance, ideal citizenship, ethical and moral values. Popular Theater is one of the many effective and cost efficient ways through which BRAC disseminates important information to the grass root communities. The Moral Day is an extended learning activity of Ethics and Culture course which seeks to promote standardized values through behavior demonstration that focuses on leading a rational life.

Public Health Seminar



The 6th Public Health Seminar took place at Savar Residential Semester on 15 October; 2011. The session was facilitated by the faculty members from School of Public Health (SPH), BRAC University. It started at 9:30 am in the morning and finished at 3:30 pm. The first session on 'Health and Wellbeing' was conducted by **Dr. Nasima Selim** from SPH and it was attended by all two hundred and seventy five

students of RS. After the Health Break the students were divided to attend the session of 'Reproductive Health and Rights' separately. The male students attended the session first conducted by Professor **Dr Malabika Sarker** from SPH. The session ended followed by a question answer session for about half an hour. It was interesting to observe that students freely asked a lot of important questions regarding the subject matter and they were answered as best as possible by the speaker and a guest BRACU doctor. During this session, all the female students enjoyed a documentary named 'Grand Canyon' in different class rooms located in the on the floor below the Markuli hall. After lunch break, the process was repeated with the female students in Markuli hall attending the

session 'Reproductive Health and Rights' with the same facilitator followed by another question- answer session. The male students enjoyed the documentary during this time.

Campus Superintendent, faculty members from RS, HTs and other RS staff, counseling team both from Mohakhali and Savar - all were involved and played their respective roles to make the session a success.

Social Learning Lab

The Social Learning Lab programme has begun in Residential Semester in Savar from October. The first Social Learning Lab was conducted on 8 October 2011 and the second Lab was arranged on 22 October, 2011. About ninety students, at a time, took part in handling the responsibilities of the whole RS campus officials of all sectors: the Administration, the labour body, the laundry, the kitchen staff, as well as the dinning staff. Each lab was followed by a presentation of each group sharing their feelings, learning and ethical development that resulted from this unique exercise. On the following day, 23 October, the students presented their reflection in groups categorized by the sector they participated in. The presentation consisted of their feelings, the lesson learned and ethical development that occurred in them. The Social Learning Lab of Residential Semester (RS) is a unique experience of university education in BRAC University. Incorporated within the Ethics and Culture course, this activity helps students get an exposure to a different set of activities that they hardly face in their regular life. Moreover, it helps develop their leadership skills with moral values, which is one of the main goals of the design of this semester.

SECS Updates

IEEE Updates

IEEE Day Celebration



8th of October was a very significant day for IEEE BRAC University Student Branch (BRACU SB) as the branch members decided to celebrate the IEEE day with both formal and informal festivities. Followed by a fun-filled quiz competition, the event started with a short speech delivered by the chairperson of the branch, Rumman Huq. Being a focal part of the whole event, the quiz competition consisted of 4 teams, each of it having two members. The winner and runner-up teams were awarded by the chairperson. After some brainstorming and knowledge-sharing in the quiz competition, all the members took part in a photo session where every member was wearing the black IEEE t-shirt with blue writings in it. Besides the quiz completion, another attraction of the celebration was the three kilograms blue colored black forest cake which grabbed the attention of almost all the students present there. Surrounded by a bunch of active IEEE members, the cake announced the glory and magnificence of IEEE as this international organization turned into 127 years.

IEEE Certificate Awarding Dinner



On the 27th October, 2011 the IEEE Bangladesh Section organized the 'Certificate Awarding Ceremony' in the Central Cafeteria of BUET. **Professor Dr. S.M Nazrul Islam** (VC of BUET) was the Chief Guest of this occasion. IEEE members, student members, life members and others were invited to this event.

The event consisted of lectures by distinguished IEEE members and BUET faculty, followed by the certificate presentation to active members for their achievements, an extravagant dinner and raffle draw. It was a great event to see and explore what real IEEE members are doing in our country and also a great opportunity to see student members from other private and public universities and interact with them.

SPH Updates

MPH PROGRAM

Courses

MPH 690 Public Health Nutrition module was held from October 9, 2011 to October 20, 2011. **Dr Tahmeed Ahmed**, Director & Senior Scientist, Centre for Nutrition & Food Security, ICDDR,B was the course coordinator. **Ms Nadia Ishrat Alamgir**, Senior Research Associate and **Ms Maliha Bassam**, Documentation and Communications Officer, were the teaching fellows.

The Methodology Workshop for MPH students was coordinated by **Dr Nasima Selim**, Lecturer from October 23, 2011 to October 26, 2011. A number of core faculty from the School and ICDDR,B facilitated lectures in this workshop.

Field visits

As part of the MPH 690 course, students visited the ICDDR,B site in a Mirpur slum to conduct a child nutrition assessment. They visited a garments factory in Gazipur to determine the anemia status of garments workers. They went to two community clinics at Savar to assess the community nutrition activities. They also went to the Dhaka Hospital of ICDDR,B to gain social perspectives of severe acute malnutrition.

EU ♦ ASIA LINK PROJECT: BUILDING PARTNERSHIP FOR BETTER HEALTH

The capacity building project 'EU-Asia Link: Building Partnership for Better Health' has been extended till October, 2012. As per the request of the partners and smooth implementation of the remaining activities, JPGSPH made an appeal to the Delegation of European Union for no cost extension. Considering the status EC approved the extension for the mentioned period.

FOOD SECURITY NUTRITIONAL SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM (FSNSP)

Professor Malabika Sarker has been appointed as Interim Project Manager (PM) of the Food Security Nutritional Surveillance Project (FSNSP). One of her major assignments as PM would be to recruit a new Project Manager. Applications for the position have been invited through advertisement at the JPGSPH and another commercial website. A full time Project Manager will be appointed by the end of December.

FSNSP is organizing a stakeholders' meeting in early December where the first report of the surveillance will be launched.

GFATM

913

PROJECT

3-week Course on HIV/AIDS related Issues, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation



A 3-week course on HIV/AIDS related issues, management, monitoring and evaluation was organized by the GFATM- Rolling Continuation Channel project of James P Grant School of Public health, BRAC University funded by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The project titled 'Building and Strengthening the Technical

and Institutional Capacities of Government, NGOs, and Implementing Partners' is part of the Expanding HIV Prevention program in Bangladesh.

The course took place from 09-27 October, 2011 at the BRAC Learning Center (BLC), Uttara, Dhaka. A total of 18 participants of GFATM and non-GFATM NGOs from 20 project districts and members of the STI/AIDS Network of Bangladesh participated in the course. The main purpose of the course was to contribute to better management and quality implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention program in the field level through developing the capacity of mid level managers.

The course designed for HIV/AIDS related issues for 8 days (48 hours) that covered: basic HIV/AIDS, risk of MARPs, STI management, care and support etc.; Management issues for 2 days (09 hours) that included projects management, team building, effective communication, problem solving, decision making, coordination etc; and Monitoring & Evaluation for 6 days (33 hours) that contains Basics of M&E, indicator setting, data collection methods and analysis, report writing etc.

Experts of specific areas were invited to facilitate specific sessions in the course. Besides, internal resource persons facilitated the sessions. The 3-week course was started with welcoming address by **Dr. S.M Idris Ali**, Program Manager, NASP and **Alhaj Mohammad Fazlul Haque**, Vice Chairman, STI/AIDS Network of Bangladesh and senior level staff of GFATM-913.

A formal concluding session was held at the end of the course. The Line Director, National AIDS/STD Programme (NASP), Dr. M. A. Waheed attended the closing session. The participants were awarded with certificates by the Line Director for successful completion of the course.

Orientation on Standard Operating Procedures for Services to People Living with HIV and AIDS

A one week orientation on 'Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Services to People Living with HIV and AIDS' was organized for five selected GO-NGOs by the Rolling Continuation Channel project of James P Grant School of Public health, BRAC University funded by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The project titled



'Building and Strengthening the Technical and Institutional Capacities of Government, NGOs, and Implementing Partners' is part of the Expanding HIV Prevention program in Bangladesh.

The orientation took place from 22-27 October 2011 at the BRAC Learning Center (BLC), Uttara, Dhaka. A total of 25 participants participated in the SOP Orientation from JAGORI-ICDDR, BSMMU, Ashar Alo Society, Mukto Akash

Bangladesh and Confidential Approach to AIDS Prevention (CAAP). The main purpose of the orientation was to strengthen the capacity of service providers of delivery organizations and institutions to provide quality services to PLHA through effective implementation of service standards as per the SOP.

The course was designed based on the SOP and included topics such as: Prevention, Treatment and Nursing Care, Psychosocial Support, Legal and Human Rights Support, Socioeconomic Support, National M&E system, etc.

Experts from various areas were invited to facilitate specific sessions in the course. The facilitators and resource persons were Prof. Nazrul Islam, Ex-Vice Chancellor, BSMMU, Dr. Salimuzzaman, Sir Salimullah Medical College, Dr. Nilufar Begum, Ashar Alo Society, **Dr. Shimul Koli Hossain**, DGFP, **Dr. Rupali Sisir Banu**, Team Leader, IDUs Intervention CARE Bangladesh and **Arunthia Zaidi Urmi**, Jagori, ICDDR. B.

A formal inaugural session was held by **Dr. M. A. Waheed**, Line Director, National AIDS/STD Programme (NASP), **Dr. Samina Choudhury**, Manager, Save the Children International, and **Ms Ismat Bhuiya**, Team Leader & Sr. Project Director of JPGSPH, BRAC University. A concluding session was held at the end of the course. The participants were awarded with certificates for successful completion of the course.

PAY FOR PERFORMANCE

Since May 2011, the James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) has been working with the Population Council on the Pay for Performance (P4P) research project. In October, 2011, the activities of P4P included a Quality Assurance Group (QAG) visit at Jamalpur district to check the quality of public MNCH services in intervention areas. This visit consisted of representatives from secondary and tertiary public health facilities along with representatives from Population Council and JPGSPH. Three consecutive visits had been accomplished on January, April and July of 2011 in this regard. The latest visit was coordinated by one of the Researchers of JPGSPH to four public health facilities (Jamalpur District Hospital, Islampur Upazila Health Complex, Bakhsiganj Upazila Health Complex and Melandha Upazila Health Complex) of Jamalpur district from October 9-12, 2011. Upon completion of the performance assessment, the facilities were remarked against a quantitative checklist and expert opinion. The next quarter's target has been set over a meeting amongst the QAG members. A Quarterly Progress Report on the outcome and a Financial Report has already been submitted to the Population Council's head office in New York.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr Sabina Rashid, Professor and MPH Coordinator, was invited to speak on 'Cultural and Social Dimensions of Men's Health: Gender and Equity Implications' at BRIDGING THE GAP" Gender Equality and Justice - "Exploring Masculinities" Symposium in October 11th-12th 2011, at Quaid i- Azam University, Islamabad and October 13th-14th 2011, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. The conference was organized by UN Women, AMAL, ROZAN and Men's Engage Alliance.

Dr Sabina Rashid, Professor and MPH Coordinator, attended a WHO convened global conference from 18-21 October 2011 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to build support for the implementation of action on social determinants of health. She presented at two sessions, on October 18 on 'Importance of Urban Health and Centre for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)' and then presented on October 19 on 'Using a Social Determinants Lens: Situation of Education of Public Health Professionals in Bangladesh' at this conference.

Mr Kuhel Faizul Islam, Research Associate, made a visit to Kabul, Afghanistan for a program evaluation of community based healthcare centers run jointly by Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Afghanistan and BRAC Health International. The purpose of the trip was to explore end-term evaluation of the NOVIB-OXFAM fund and whether it can be aligned with the National Health Policy of Afghanistan.

NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

Ms Sajeda Begum joined the School in October, 2011 as the Programme Implementation Specialist of the RCC (Rolling Continuation Channel) project funded by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The project titled 'Building and Strengthening the Technical and Institutional Capacities of Government, NGOs, and Implementing Partners' is part of the Expanding HIV Prevention program in Bangladesh. Ms Begum is a development professional with a Master of Public Health who has previously worked at various non-governmental organizations.

TLC Updates

An exclusive session for BRAC Young Professionals (YP) on "Who Am I: What is the purpose of my life?"



TLC conducted a special session under 'Series of Public Lectures' organized by BRAC for its Young Professionals (YP) on Oct 2nd at BRACU Indoor-games room. The session was a part of BRAC and BRACU synergy activities and was titled as

"Who Am I: What is the purpose of my life?" A number of faculty members and admin staffs both from BRAC and BRACU made their active participation in the workshop along with the young professionals. It was facilitated by Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC and Director, TLC, BRACU ,Samina Anzum, Lecturer, TLC and Mr. Shami Suhrid, Psycho social counselor, BRACU Counseling unit. The session was conducted through a number of exercises healing one's own realization of personal vision and mission, core values and core competencies relating with the organizational's one ,where they serve. The exercise on "Circle of Taking and Circle of Giving" both in personal and professional life, made the participants think critically about themselves - what type of employee/person they really are and how much they have been contributing to the society, to the organization and to the family comparing the advantages/services they have been receiving! The last exercise was on "The four parts(body, mind, heart and spirit) of a human being those must be taken cared of if anybody truly wants to serve. The session was wrapped up by a recitation of a poem, composed by Pablo Neruda by Samina Azum and Shami Suhrid.

4th TLC Follow-up workshop on 13th



4th TLC Follow-up workshop was held on October 13th at BRACU auditorium. It was a half day workshop and the participants were the 40 TLC Graduates (faculty members, who participated TLC -4 and TLC-5 workshop at BRACU Savar Campus). The workshop was designed into two phases. The earlier phase was revisiting and getting reflections from the graduates to know how far they could apply the learning they had from TLC workshops.

In the second phase there were group discussions on the problems/challenges they are facing for ensuring effective teaching at BRACU and what are the measures they are taking/could be taken to address those problems. Each of the group's discussions, the most challenging issues/problems were chosen and it was listed in idea cards. Altogether 13 issues of concerns were listed. This part was facilitated by Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir and Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury.

After the health break the panel discussion was started. In this discussion session all the departmental Heads were invited. Prof. AA Ziauddin Ahmed, Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Prof. Sayeed Salam, Prof. Fuad H. Mallick, Prof. Firdous Azim, Prof. Mumit Khan, Prof. Rizwann Khair and Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury , Registrar were present in the panel discussion. This session was facilitated by Prof. Ainun Nishat, VC, BRACU where all those 13 concerned issues were discussed thoroughly. It

was a very participatory session where many creative and realistic suggestions came from the VC, Pro-VC and the Heads of departments .



The workshop was ended-up with thanks of voting from VC and Pro-VC and sharing open feedbacks from the participants.

Workshop on Strengthening Organizational Performance of BRACU

A TLC Professional Development workshop for BRACU administrative personnel titled as 'Strengthening Organizational Performance of BRACU' was organized on 22nd October 2011 at BRACU Auditorium. It was jointly organized by Teaching Learning Center (TLC) and BRACU Career Services Office (CSO). The facilitators were Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRACU, Mr Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar, Mohammad Abdur Rahman, Head, BLD, BRAC, Ms. Rosy Sharif, Assistant Director, HR and Mr. Monojit Kumar Ojha, Head of Accounts, BRACU. A number of resource persons - Ms. Ismat Shereen, Head, CSO, Mr. Arifuzzaman, Assistant Registrar, Program, Md. Nurul Islam Bulbul, Assistant Director, Admin, Ms. Samina Anzum , Lecturer, TLC and Mr. Ashik Sarwar , Jr. Lecturer, CfL also spread their support to make this workshop successful. The total participants were 22 administrative staffs of BRACU and one from BU-IED. The facilitators gave separate presentation followed by question-answer session each in the areas of BRAC and its Programs, BRACU rules, regulation and procedures (including sexual harassment policy, accounts and HR relevant policies). The next session was on Work motivation, facilitated by Prof. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Ms. Samina Anzum , Lecturer, TLC and Mr. Ashik Sarwar , Jr. Lecturer, CfL where there a number of group exercises followed by group presentations.



Club and Forum Updates

ROBI's JOB INCUBATOR - 2011

After 10 years of establishment, for the first time BRAC University organized a job fair titled ROBI Job Incubator - 2011. With a title sponsorship of ROBI Axiata Ltd, BRAC University Business Club (BIZ BEE) is the organizer of this fair in association with BRAC Business School.

The 2 days' ceremony was unwrapped for all at 11:00 pm right after the inauguration ceremony of the fair. Prof. Mamun Rashid, Director, BRAC Business School was the chief guest of this job fair. Mr. Matiul Islam Nowshad, Chief Human Resources Officer, ROBI Axiata Ltd was the privileged "Guest of Honor" at the inauguration. Besides many conventional banks, many well-known organizations showed their concern at the ROBI Job Incubator. BRAC Bank, Trust Bank, Aarong, Purbachal Probashi Palli, Bestway Group, Transcom mobile ltd., Rupayan, Asiatic, College of Fashion & Technology, Eminent Securities, Bangla CAT, MI Cement, NCC Bank, Cemex Cement, & IFAD Group are some of the names who are contributing to the job fair.

Students who are in the final year of their graduation as well as who has already been graduated was provided the opportunity to submit their respective CV for part-time, full-time, & trainee positions. The main attraction of the program was on campus aptitude test for the students of BRAC University by ROBI Axiata Ltd.

BUCC organized Seminar on Study Abroad



BUCC organized Seminar on Study Abroad Computer Club (BUCC) organized seminar on Study Abroad on 4th October 2011, Tuesday. GDLN conference center at UB 18th floor was crowded with students with ambition who aim to pursue higher education and would like to get a head start on their career. In the hours long seminar presenters explained that many students want to go abroad for a degree from reputed university. Before that they need some preparation and have to have a clear concept on how they could study abroad. That's why it is our shared responsibility to let them know about the different procedures of studying abroad. Lead speaker was **Md. Mamunur Rashid**, currently working for European Organization for Nuclear Research" (CERN), Geneva, Switzerland. He moved to UK in 2003 from BRACU. He is about to finish his PhD. He was joined by **Md. Fazle Munim Sayket**, currently studying at Orebro University, Sweden concentrating on E-Government. It was a very good session for current BRACU

students who had lot of questions about studying abroad. Speakers combined were able to answer even country specific questions. This was an effort for current students so that they do not have to face same trouble that others went through when they moved abroad for higher study. Speakers were keen to know from students how they wanted to be helped. **S. Mahbub -Uz- Zaman Ananda** received the speakers. **Mafuzul Murshed Bhuiyan Shajib** and **Tasmia Tabassum** along with other EB members coordinated the event. **Md. Shamsul Kaonain Noman**, faculty member of SECS was present during the event. A follow up Facebook Group is available at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/buabroad/>

BUCC Freshers' Orientation



On 11th October 2011, Tuesday, Computer Club (BUCC) orientation concentrating on freshers and new members took place from 5 pm to 7pm at CB 601 (Civil Engineering Bhaban). The orientation was filled with enthusiastic students willing to be involved in Computer Club's numerous activities in different directions and dimensions. Steve Job's inspiring lecture, "Stay Hungry, Stay Foolish" was shown in the event. Among the faculty members **Aldrin Nippon Bobby**, **Md. Abdur Rahman Adnan**, **Md. Shamsul Kaonain Noman**, **Abu Mohammad Hammad Ali** and **Annajiat Alim Rasel** of SECS were present

BUCC organized TopBU October 2011 Programming Contest

On 15th October 2011, Saturday, UB 11th floor was populated with students with dazzling talents and great ambitions who love solving problems, puzzles, using mathematics and computers as their tools. In the several hour long competition **Sadat Sakif Ahmed**, 09301005 snatched the first prize, a 500 GB Portable Harddisk by solving 4 problems, followed by 1st Runners-up, Radin Ahmed Ehsan, 09301010 who solved 3 problems and then 2nd Runners-up



is **Tanjina Islam**, 09301018 by solving 2 problems. Runners up received 8 GB and 4 GB prizes respectively. Along with many other organizers, Syeed Chowdhury Shaashwato, 09201014 coordinated the event and beautiful Hall of Fame posters were designed by **Onishim Hasdak**, 09201003 and **Fahim Al Hasnaeen**, 09201004. The event was made possible by weeks long after hours active involvement of faculty members of SECS namely, Abu **Mohammad Hammad Ali**, **Md. Abdur Rahman Adnan**, and **Md. Shamsul Kaonain Noman**. More details are available at <https://sites.google.com/site/topbracup/>

BUCC arranges Talk on Wireless Networking

On 18th October 2011, Tuesday Computer Club (BUCC) organized a Talk on Wireless Networking at 2pm in UB 201. It was a nice presentation with room full of participants including staffs from BRACU IT Systems, alumni members and students studying in relevant courses and areas like CSE490:WAN Routing and Technologies and ECE210: Electromagnetic fields and waves. The speaker was **Adnan Quadri**, Network Consultant, Amadeyr Cloud Ltd, Dhaka. The highly informative talk included topics on Wireless Mesh Network, Amadeyr Cloud: Next Generation Wireless Communication for Rural Development in Gazipur, relevant academic publication, Smart Grid Information Network and EnergyCard: Social Networking for a Green Growth. The presentation (13 MB) is available internally at BRACU here. Among the SECS faculty members, **Ms Farzana Shabnam** and **Muhammad Abdur Rahman Adnan** were present. More details about the author and his organization can be found at www.amadeyr.org, adnan.quadri@amadeyr.org and quad4ri.wordpress.com.

BUCC members participate in ESAB Seminar on Android Platform



On 25th October 2011, Tuesday Computer Club (BUCC) members participated in Seminar On ANDROID Platform, 2.30 pm to 6.30 pm. The event was organized by newly formed Engineering Student Association Of Bangladesh (ESAB) at Bangladesh-Korea Information Access Centre (IAC) Seminar Room, New Academic Building, Bangladesh University of

Engineering and Technology Dhaka, Bangladesh. The motivation of the seminar was that we are now getting addicted to the android apps. Some apps are making quite a buzz and smart phones based on android apps are already wide spread and gradually grabbing greater share of the market. Undoubtedly android is going to be the next generation platform for developers. Now this is the perfect time for the concerned people to start their career on android and from this perspective the seminar was organized so that students can start learning and can take their career to a new horizon. Engineering Students Association of Bangladesh is a Government registered volunteer organization working for the welfare concern of the students of engineering universities. More details about

ESAB can be found [here](#). **Md. Shamsul Kaonain Noman**, co-Advisor and faculty member of SECS accompanied the students.

Copyright © BRAC University, All rights reserved.