



## BRAC University Bulletin

2012/January

### ARC Updates

#### PPDM Director and a faculty member attended Lancet Authors' meeting in Bangkok

**Professor Fuad H Mallick**, Director and **M Aminur Rahman**, Lecturer of the Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM) attended the Lancet Authors' meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand during January 24-25, 2012. All authors for the Lancet Series on Bangladesh were invited to the meeting to review the draft papers and develop a work-plan to enable Lancet the launch of the series in October 2012. **Dr. Lincoln Chen** and **Ms. Pamela Das**, advisers of the Lancet Series Bangladesh project and the members of the Steering Committee for the same were also present in this two-day meeting. This meeting was jointly organized by the ICDDR'B and the Rockefeller Foundation. **Professor Mallick** and **Mr. Rahman** are co-authors for one the papers that addresses disasters and health issues in Bangladesh.



#### Lecture on Tagore Songs

On January 31, 2012 **Dr. Susmita Bhattacharyya**, a sociologist and Tagore researcher from Kolkata, India delivered a lecture on "Unmasking Youth in the Songs of Tagore (Rabindra Sanget)" at Angan Lecture Series, organized by the department of Architecture. The program was conducted by **Mr. Imon Chowdhoree**, Coordinator, Angan Lecture Series.

### BBS Updates

"**Ms Sayla Sowat Siddiqui**, Lecturer-II of BRAC Business School has received the prestigious Endeavour Postgraduate Award 2012 by Australian Government to pursue Master of Business (Research) in Queensland University of Technology from February 2012. Previously **Mr Suman Paul Chowdhury**, Senior Lecturer of the same school was selected for this award to pursue PhD in Australia in 2011

### BDI Updates

#### Dissemination Workshop on "State Policies and Legal Framework for Pavement Dwellers: A Review of Present Situation and Interventions"

BRAC Development Institute (BDI) and Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP) jointly organized a workshop on January 29th, 2012 at BRAC Centre to disseminate findings on the study titled "State Policies and Legal Framework for Pavement

Dwellers: A Review of Present Situation and Interventions." The workshop began with an opening speech by the Director of BDI, **Professor Syed M. Hashemi, A.K.M. Mozammel Huq** MP, Honorable Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee, Ministry of Land participated as the chief guest of the event. Noted experts, policy-makers, researchers and other stakeholders were also present.

This research focused on the living conditions, legal rights, economic opportunities and access to services of the pavement dwellers. The rationale behind the study was - though some other organizations have conducted some research and have given some fruitful findings, none of these studies focused on the state policy and law. In response, this study focused on the status of the pavement dwellers in policy and in the perspective of wider society. Along with, available policies of the state were reviewed and practices were explored.

The study was executed with a joint support of CUP and Concern Worldwide Bangladesh (CWWB). It was carried out in six different locations of Dhaka city, where the Amrao Manush project activities are now being implemented by the partner agency CWWB. The first draft of this report has been completed.

### **Completion of the Study Titled "Scoping Study on Property Rights"**

BDI conducted a study called "Scoping Study on Property Rights," a part of a scoping study for the ongoing Property and Land Rights Initiatives under BRAC Human-Rights and Legal Aid Services (HRLS) Program. These initiatives intend to develop a scalable program in Bangladesh to create awareness among the poor - especially targeting women and minority communities regarding their property rights and helping them to secure their rights as per statutory provisions. Through this study, BDI attempted to explore people's general understanding of property rights, their practice of such rights, and their experience and problems in trying to secure these rights.

The purposes of the study include - assessing the existing state of demand for property rights of the people in the HRLS study area and identifying strategies for interventions for creating demands by- 1) identifying possible entry points, and 2) enhancement of services already in place.

### **Paper on 'Rural Livelihood and Gender' Selected to Be Published on UN Online Series Publication**

Lead Researcher **Sohela Naznin's** technical background paper on 'Rural Livelihoods and Gender' for the 2010 Asia Pacific Human Development Report: "Power, Voice and Rights: A Turning Point in Gender Equality in Asia Pacific," has been selected for UN online series publication. The paper is expected to be published in February 2012.

### **The 'Centre for Gender' Received Approval by BRAC University**

The 'Centre for Gender' has been approved by the **BRAC** University authority. It was launched on January 1st, 2012 and will be based at BDI.

## CfL Updates

### Chinese New Year celebrated at BRAC University



On 31 January 2012, BRAC University celebrated the Chinese New Year 2012 festival. **MR. Yang Zhao Hui**, Charge d' affairs from the Embassy of The People's Republic of China was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while Professor **Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro Vice Chancellor, BRAC University chaired the program. The others present in the ceremony included **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, the Registrar of BRAC University, a representative of Xin Hua news agency- Bangladesh, CfL faculty members, BRAC University students and officials.

The ceremony was adorned with songs, dance and speeches in Chinese performed by the students and a film show. The audience, including the Chinese high officials has enjoyed the program.

It is worth mentioning that the year 2012 is the year of the dragon in Chinese lunar calendar and is of much importance to the Chinese culture.

### CfL participated in National BELTA Conference

On 21 January 2012, a number of CfL faculty members attended the BELTA National Conference on Communicative Language Teaching held in BRAC Inn, BRAC Centre. The theme of the conference was "CLT in Bangladesh: Myths and Realities". The faculty members actively participated in the seminars and workshops conducted by renowned scholars, to mention, **Dr. Arifa Rahman, Dr. Md. Shahidullah, Dr. Muhammed Shahriar Haque, Harun-ur Rashid Khan** and others.

## CSO Updates

### Internship Orientation- Spring 2012



The Internship Orientation of the semester Spring 2012 was held at 03:00 pm, Thursday, January 12, 2012 in Indoor Games Room. **Ms. Asma Banu**, Sr. Asst. Director, Career Services Office conveys the entire process of internship to the prospective interns. She discussed about the rules and regulations one has to

maintain while continuing an internship.

The registered students for the internship were present in the session. The session ended with a question answer session where **Ms. Shanzida Shahab Uddin**, Career Services Officer answered the questions which students asked about the process of the Internship.

There are 77 undergraduates from BRAC Business School, 6 from the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, 10 from the Department of English and Humanities and 9 post graduates from BRAC Business School in the Spring 2012 semester.

### PSDP Final Assessment- Fall 2011

Career Services Office of BRAC University has successfully organized "Mock Interview Session" of Semester: Fall 2011. CSO organizes this event every semester as a modular component of Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) aiming to provide the prospective graduates the insight on facing actual interview boards. In this semester fifteen renowned organizations have



participated namely: Grameenphone Limited, Robi Axiata Limited, British American Tobacco Bangladesh, BRAC Bank Limited, Standard Chartered Bank, BRAC, Trust Bank Limited, Prime Bank Limited, BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited, Reckitt Benckiser, Augree Wireless Broadband Bangladesh Limited, MGH Group, United Commercial Bank Limited, Rangs Group and Smart Services Limited. The Mock Interview Session were conducted by **Mr. Md. Nuruzzaman**, Specialist, Planning & Recruitment, Grameenphone, **Ms. Somaira Monwar**,

Specialist, HR Operations, Human Resource Division of Robi Axiata Limited, **Mr. Zull Ainain Jaigirdar**, HR Business Partner, Marketing of British America Tobacco Co, **Ms. Samara Sadrin**, Assistant Manager of Transmarine (MGH Group), **Syed Akhlakuzzaman**, Senior HR Relationship Manager of BRAC Bank Ltd, **Md. Sharif Bin Mohiuddin**, Augree Wireless Broadband Bangladesh Limited, **Fabiha Ashekeen Ahmed**, Talent Acquisition Specialist of Standard Chartered Bank, **Hrishikesh Baidya**, Deputy General Manager HRD of BRAC, **Ms. Munera**, HR Head of Smart Services Limited, **Shawkat Hossain**, Senior Executive Vice President of Prime Bank Ltd, **Rashedul Alam**, Assistant Vice President of Trust Bank Ltd, **Shahriar Mahmood**, HR Operations Manager, **Reckitt Benckiser**, **Touhidur Nur**, Assistant Manager, Human Resource of BRAC EPL, and **Kazi Asadur Rahman**, Assistant Manager HR of Rangs Group. A number of 127 students have participated in the event for assessment and total 15 interview boards were there. A detailed feedback has been received on every interviewed candidate, indicating strengths and areas of development. **Ms. Asma Banu**, Senior Assistant Director of Career Services Office of BRAC University has inaugurated the event with her welcome speech and presentation. **Kazi Shahnoor Kabir**, Career Services Executive gave a presentation focusing on the roles and activities of Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) and how to conduct the assessment for Mock Interview Session. Professor **Mamun Rashid**, Director, BRAC Business School (BBS), shared his views about the current job market with words of encouragement to the students. The event rolled smoothly till the end with the help of student volunteers and CSO team.

#### 7th Convocation Photo Session



Career services Office (CSO) has arranged the 7th convocation photo session for the convocation brochure from January 16th - January 21st, 2012 at BRAC University Indoor Auditorium. A number of about 450 photos were taken of prospective graduates of 7th Convocation from all the departments.

#### Job Update

1. Shaolin Akter | BBA | Banglalink
2. Zannat Tahera Lamia | BBA | Banglalink
3. Mahfoja Najneen | MBA | GraphicPeople-SoftwarePeople

## ENH Updates

### Roundtable Discussion on Research, Teaching and Learning History



On 2nd January 2012, a comprehensive round table meeting was organised by ENH where historians and academics from various universities from the US, Europe and Bangladesh came to examine and explore Bangladesh's involvement with world history as a way of introducing a minor in History in the Department of English and Humanities. The locus of discussion revolved around the ideologies and methods that would create sufficient interest among students of all disciplines to undertake courses on history, as a means not only to broaden the field of the humanities, but also to curb the decline in current students' interest in the humanities. Notable keynote speakers included Kris Manjapra of Tufts University, **Iftekhar Iqbal** of Dhaka University, **Tazeen Murshid** of the University of Brussels and **Firdous Azim**, the chairperson of the English and Humanities Department at BRAC University. The vibrant discussion showed what a challenging, and exciting task the discipline of history entails, and it opens all kinds of thematic trajectories into other fields of study including feminism, socio-economic concerns, Marxism, post-structuralism, environmental studies and postcolonial studies.

### Launching Minor in History

The Department of English and Humanities has introduced the new minor in History in Spring 2012. Hence, "HST102: The Modern World" and "HST 103: History of Bangladesh" have been added to the list of courses offered this semester. Professor **Riaz Khan** is teaching both the courses. He joined the BRACU faculty after serving as a Visiting Professor in New York University, New York.

### Paper Presentations in Conferences

On 7th January 2012, Professor **Firdous Azim**, of ENH delivered the keynote

paper titled English Studies in 21st Century Bangladesh: Realities and Relevance From Colonisation to Globalisation in the day-long seminar English Studies in the 21st Century Bangladesh: Realities and Relevance organised by Eastern University, Dhaka. The paper explored the changing nature of English studies in the modern era. The session was presided over by Professor **Nurul Islam**, Vice Chancellor, Eastern University. The other discussants of the session were Associate Professor **Iffat Ara Nasreen Majid**, Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka, Associate Professor **Shamsad Mortuza**, Department of English, University of Dhaka, and **Shahidul Alam**, Senior Lecturer, Department of English, North South University, Dhaka.

**Ayrin Ahmed**, Teaching Assistant in the History stream of ENH, BRACU, presented a paper titled Cities of Bengal in the Medieval Age in the 28th Conference of "Paschimbanga **Itihas Samsad**" held from 24th -26th January 2012 at Thakurpukur, Vivekananda College. Kolkata.



### ENH Lecture Series

**Tamina Chowdhury** delivered a guest lecture titled Colonial Rule and Contemporary Claim to Indigeneity in the CHT as a part of ENH Lecture Series on 31st January 2012. The speaker is pursuing her PhD on this topic at the University of Cambridge, UK.

## IED Updates

### Facilitation workshop and workshop on action research

**Dr. Mainus Sultan**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA conducted two workshops for the IED professionals at IED. The facilitation workshop was held from 2nd to 4th January, 2012 where professionals from Research and Development, Curriculum Research and Development, MEd in Educational Leadership, Planning and Management, Early Childhood Development and Professional Development groups were present.



A total of 20 participants participated in the facilitation workshop. The workshop on Action Research was held on 8th and 9th, January, 2012. Twenty-two participants from Research and Development, Curriculum Research and Development, MEd in Educational Leadership Planning and Management and Early Childhood Development group participated in the workshop.

### **Training on Inclusive Education to the government school teachers**

As a continuation of ongoing teacher training on inclusive education in four upazilla, last two batches of teacher training was held from 14th to 19th January, 2012 at Upazila Resource Centre (URC) at sadar upazilla of Rangamati district. As part of the partnership with IED, local education administration provided the venue. Fifty-one teachers from three GPS, four RNGPS and two secondary schools received the training. Three selected teachers from these schools and IED's Field Operation Officers who received the ToT were the facilitators. Besides, two one-day refreshers of previous training were held in Purbodhola, Netrokona and Vanga, Faridpur. A total of seventy-five teachers from 8 GPS, 8 RNGPS and 3 secondary schools participated in the refresher. The teachers shared their experiences and challenges to implement inclusive education in the refreshers.

### **Training on Pre primary for Assistant District Primary Education Officers (ADPEOs)**

IED has been working as a part of the Secretariat of the ECD Network. The institute has been providing capacity development of ECD professionals at GoB and NGO sector. For the successful implementation of the ECD curriculum at field level, the GoB has decided to train ADPEOs, PTI (Primary Teachers' Training Institute) and Upazila Resources Centre (URC) Instructors from each district of the country. Director General of DPE ( Directorate of Primary Education) has selected 100 officials consisting of ADPEOs, PTI and URC Instructors to be trained in this area and as such IED has been given the task of designing and delivering 5 day Short Course Training on Pre- Primary Education under PPP ( Public Private Partnership).



Fourth batch training started from 28th January and will end on 1st February, 2012. **Janab Mahabub-Un Nahar**, Director Training, DPE was the chief guest at the opening session. It needs to be mentioned that The Professional Development Team has created a Trainers Pool of 15 facilitators and they are responsible in imparting these trainings.

### **Working on short course on Language Education**

The Curriculum Research and Development Group is working on language education development. Two courses on language education both in Bangla and English are currently being developed and they are designed for the professionals and practitioners involved in language curricula and materials development, teacher training and curriculum implementation. The draft modules for both the courses are in progress. The team members attended a 5- day session from 29th January to 2nd February with **Dr. Mainus Sultan** to design an action research on "Language Short Course".



## IGS Updates

### IGS facilitated the study tour of the University of Virginia



A group of 17 students of the University of Virginia under the guidance of **Brad Brown**, Associate Professor of the University of Virginia and **Cliff Maxwell**, Teaching Assistant visited

Bangladesh from 1- 12 January for a study tour titled "Development Practice: Social Enterprises in Bangladesh, 2012. IGS facilitated the study tour. As a part of the tour, the team visited Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BWCCI), Aarong, Grameen Bank, BRAC Microfinance Programme, BRAC Health Programme, BRAC Primary Education Programme, Ayesha Abed Foundation, BRAC Enterprises, USAID Programme, BRAC Dairy and Food Project Programme and BRAC Agricultural Research and Development Center, Srimongal with the assistance of IGS. The team also met Nobel Laureate Professor **Mohammad Yunus**.

### Academic Programmes

#### CIPS LA-04 Exam was held

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) LA-04 exam was held at JATRI on 25 January for private cohort. Fifteen out of seventeen candidates attended the exam.

#### Study Tour

Batch two of the CIPS went for a study tour at Renata Pharmaceuticals Ltd at Mirpur on 25 January to practically observe the operational processes and storage maintenance of the company.

#### Masters in Governance & Development (MAGD)

Written test and group interview for the 4th Batch of the MAGD was conducted on 14 January. Out of 49 candidates, 25 were selected finally for the programme. The classes of the programme will start from 3 March 2012.

### Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asian Region (ANSASAR)

## Meeting with Grantees

**Naimur Rahman**, Chief Operating Officer of ANSA-SAR attended a meeting for the ANSA-SAR supported initiative implemented by Public Affair Center on the 4th-5th January, 2012 in Bangalore.

One of ANSA-SAR's partners, Manusher Jonno Foundation organised a half-day experience sharing workshop on January 12, 2012. The workshop brought together the four partner NGO's such as the Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Agrogoti Shangstha, Jagrata Jubo Shangha and RDRS. In both these events the current activities and future prospects of the project were reviewed and discussed. The workshop was attended by **Naimur Rahman** and **Nuzhat Jabin**.

## "Open Doors" 2012 Conference



On the 16-18th January 2012, a regional conference was held in Manila for Procurement Practitioners in East-Asia Pacific named "Open Doors 2012". Open Doors 2012 supports ANSA in East Asia Pacific region to provide the networking, capacity building and technical support necessary for the SAc practitioners

to turn into a resource group for sustained and quality procurement work. **Mr. Naimur Rahman** participated in this event.

## Workshop for Community of Practice on Right to Information

From January 22-23 ANSA SAR organised a Design Workshop for the Community of Practice (COP) on Right to Information (RTI). The COP on RTI is anchored by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) in India. The two-day event brought together members of civil society organisations from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal- this group would form the core group of the COP. The two day workshop was designed to enable each participant to establish RTI in their own countries.

## Presentations by Partners

On January 30, Orissa based ANSA-SAR partners namely Sambandh, YSD, Adhar and CDS made presentations by the ANSA-SAR funded Initiatives to World Bank's State Portfolio Review Committee.

## Completion of Baseline Study of "Capacity Building for Promoting Governance"

Capacity Building for Promoting Governance, a joint initiative of IGS and BPATC in partnership with MDF, ISS and VU Amsterdam, completed its baseline study as part of inception phase activities. Mr. Martin, Project Coordinator from MDF conducted the baseline study in consultation with IGS and BPATC representatives. Activities under baseline study included capacity assessment of trainers' team of IGS and BPATC, capacity assessment of curriculum designer team, gender assessment and organisational sustainability assessment. This baseline was carried out during 4-20 January 2012. BPATC and IGS trainers' team, curriculum designers' team and working group participated in various exercises related to this baseline. Methodology of the project baseline study included interactive discussions, demonstration, presentation, self-assessment, self reflection and peer assessment. Various prescribed formats, which were also developed in consultation with IGS and BPATC, were used in baseline. The baseline study ended with development of gender plan, organisational sustainability plan and self development plan by trainers and curriculum development teams from IGS and BPATC.

### **6th Meeting on Public Private Stakeholders' Committee**



The 6th Public Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC) meeting was held on the January 4, 2012 at the NEC Conference Room of the Planning Commission Campus in Dhaka. The meeting was chaired by **Mr. Md. Mozammel Haque Khan**, Secretary of Implementation

Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), Ministry of Planning. **Mr. Iqbal Mahmood**, Secretary of Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, **Mr. Manzoor Hasan**, Advisor to the Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University and **Mr. Amulya Kumar Debnath**, Director General of Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) were also present. **Mr. Mohammad Sirajul Islam**, Research Associate of IGS & **Ms. Begum Mahmuda**, Controller (Finance & Accounts) of Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board made presentations in the event. It was featured in national dailies such as Prothom Alo, Jugantor, Dainik Janakantha, The Independent, The Financial Express and the Daily Sun.

#### **Presentation made by Visiting Research Fellow**



**Mr. Shahidul Islam**, Visiting Research Fellow of IGS made a presentation at the 2nd Yunnan-Bangladesh cooperation dialogue, jointly organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies and Yunnan Development Research Centre, Dhaka, from January 4-6, 2012. The presentation topic was 'Boosting Trade Partnership and Strengthening Bangladesh-

China Connectivity'.

#### **Journalism Training & Research Initiative (JATRI)**

##### **Orientation to the fellow of the CAG JATRI Fellowship**

JATRI is conducting an investigative journalism fellowship programme for midcareer journalists focusing on use of public audit reports for investigative journalism where each fellow will produce two stories using Right to Information requests and other investigative techniques.

As a periodic activity of this fellowship programme, JATRI organised an orientation on January 21, 2012 for selected fellows. Six selected fellows, three mentors, JATRI staff and representative from PROGATI attended the orientation programme.

The fellowship will enable the journalists to strengthen their skills and gain valuable experience in investigating issues and will assist them with their story development and understanding of public audit.

### **Orientation meeting with the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (OCAG)**

JATRI is implementing a fellowship programme to encourage journalists and media professionals to create investigative reports on Govt. Audit Reports in collaboration with PROGATI-USAID. The fellowship will provide these journalists with time, funding and mentors that will enable them to strengthen their skills and gain valuable experience in Govt. audit reports.

JATRI organised an orientation meeting on January 23, 2012 with the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (OCAG). The venue was OCAG, Kakrail, Dhaka. **Mr. Md. Iqbal Hossain**, Deputy CAG; **Ms. Fahmida Islam**, Chief Accounts Officer, Ministry of Communication; **Mr. Md. Murshidul Huq Khan**, Additional Deputy CAG- Admin; **Mr. Md. Shofiqul Islam**, Director, MIS; **Mr. Md. Khademul Karim Iqbal**, Head, Media and Communication Cell and Fellows, Mentors, Chief Of Party (COP) and Communication Officer of PROGATI were present at the orientation meeting.

### **Published Articles in the Newspapers**

A considerable number of articles of IGS Researchers have been published in various national dailies listed below:

The Daily Star: [Foiled coup attempt: Consolidating democracy is the key](#) by Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, January 31, 2012

The Daily Star: [China-Bangladesh Relations: Contemporary Convergence](#) by M Shahidul Islam, January 25, 2012

The Daily Star: [Iran standoff, war of words and the Armageddon](#) by Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, January 21, 2012

The Daily Star: [Gender pattern in voting and political participation](#) by Mariha Khalid and Ipshita Basu, January 19, 2012

The Daily Star: [Imran Khan, an agent of change and our politics](#) by Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, January 17, 2012

The Daily Star: [Making citizen's charter effective](#) by Farhana Razzaque, January 13, 2012

The New Age: [Awaiting an agent of change](#) by Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, January 8, 2012

## MNS Updates

### Seminar on Astronomy

**Dr. Dipen Bhattacharya** of the University of California, Riverside, California, USA gave a seminar on astronomy entitled "Searching for the structure of the universe" at the Public Library Auditorium on January 17, 2012. The seminar was arranged by 'Anushondhitsu Chakra'. The other speakers were **Mr. Shahjahan Mridha Benu**, **Dr. A.R. Khan**, a pioneer astronomer in Bangladesh and **Dr. Farsim Mannan Mohammadi** of BUET. The function was presided over by Professor **A.A. Ziauddin AhmAd**. A large number of audience was present in the seminar.

### Joining of New Faculty in January 2012

Eight new faculty members joined the MNS Department in different programs including one Assistant Professor and seven lecturers. The new faculty members are: **Dr. Mir Mozibor rahman**, and **Syed Md. Omar Faruk** in Mathematics, **Md. Tanvir Ahmed Chowdhury** and **Ms. Sabrina Shahrin Sharna** in Geology and Environment, **Mohammad Mosaddidur Rahman** and **Al Momin Md. Tanveer Karim** in Physics, **Mahfuzur Rahman Khokan** in Statistics and **Tamanna Akther Jahan** in Biotechnology. The seminar was attended by faculty members and some students.

### Seminar on Nanotechnology

A seminar on nanotechnology entitled "Applications and Implications of Nanomaterials" was arranged by the Department of MNS in Room UB1521 (Conference Room, MNS Department) on Thursday, January 05, 2012 at 10.00 am. **Dr. Navid Saleh**, Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of South Carolina, USA was the speaker.

### Seminar on Biotechnology



A seminar on biotechnology entitled "Seeds for the New Century: Towards Novel types of Wheat and Rice Grains" was arranged by the Department of MNS in Room UB1521 (Conference Room, MNS Department) on Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 11.00

am. **Dr. Sadequr Rahman**, Professor of Plant Genetics, Monash University, Sunway Campus, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was the speaker. The speaker discussed various issues regarding good seed production in terms of getting good

grains containing slowly digestible starch. He mentioned the usefulness of taking slowly digestible starch instead of the rapidly digestible ones. It actually takes care of the large intestine and help prevent colon cancer and heart diseases. The seminar was attended by the faculty members of the MNS Department.

### **Attending the International Workshop and Conference in Manipal University, Karnataka, India**

**Mr. Mohammad Maruf Ahmed**, Senior Lecturer of Mathematics in the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences attended the "International Workshop and Conference on Combinatorial Matrix Theory and Generalized Inverses" held on January 2-11, 2012 organized by Manipal University, Karnataka, India. He presented a paper in the Conference titled "Assorted Representations of Generalized Inverse with Numerical Solutions". His participation was funded BRAC University and Abdus Salam Centre for Theoretical Physics.

### **Annual Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology Conference-2011, January 6-7, 2012**

**Dr. Aparna Islam**, Assistant Professor, Biotechnology Programme and **Ms. Monzur-E-Mohsina**, MS student of the same programme attended a two-day long Annual Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology Conference 2011 held at Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute (BSRI), Irshurdi, Pabna on January 6-7, 2012. The event was organized jointly by the Bangladesh Association for Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology (BAPTC&B) and Biotechnology Research Strengthening Project of BCSRI. At the inaugural session Professor **Dr. A. A. M. S. Arefin Siddique**, Vice Chancellor, DU was present as chief guest, while **Dr. Wais Kabir**, Executive Chairman, BARC and **Dr. Md. Khairul Bashar**, DG, BSRI were present as special guests. The conference brought together around 150 participants from various part of Bangladesh attached in various public and private research institutes and universities. Around forty papers were presented in three scientific sessions. The articles ranged from regeneration and transformation protocol establishment, and transformation of various important crops with traits to improve production, isolation and cloning of various genes, RAPD analysis for genetic diversity evaluation of food crops etc. **Ms. Monzur-E-Mohsina** presented a paper entitled "Establishment of in vitro regeneration of farmer popular tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Miller) varieties of Bangladesh". The work has been done under the BAS-USDA-PALS endowment fund and jointly supervised by Prof. **Zeba I. Seraj** of Dhaka University and **Dr. Aparna Islam** of MNS Dept, BRACU. In the paper tissue culture protocol of several popular varieties were presented. The conference ended with the AGM of the PTC&B society. **Dr. Islam** is a joint secretary of this learned society and also a member of the organizing committee of the conference.

### **MS Thesis Presentation, 29 January 2012**

MS thesis viva of **Ms Sadaf Saz Siddiqi**, MS Biotechnology students was held on 29th, January 2012. **Ms Siddiqi's** work was aimed to analyze the role of LTR retrotransposons in evolution of Jute genome in light of stress tolerance. Title of her thesis is "Isolation, Identification and Characterization of Jute Genomic LTR retrotransposons sequences", The research studies were carried out under joint

supervision of Professor **Dr. Haseena Khan**, of Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, DU, and **Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury**, BRACU. The thesis evaluation exam was chaired by **Professor AA Ziauddin Ahmad**. **Dr. Haseena Khan** acted as external examiners. **Dr. Mahboob Hossain** and **Dr. Aparna Islam** were among the other members of the examination committee. Some faculty members attended the viva-voce exams.

## ESS Updates

### Seminars/Workshop/Conferences attended by ESS Faculty

**Ms. Seuty Sabur**, Assistant Professor at ESS was co-convener of an international conference titled as "Inter Asia Cultural Studies Conference" held on 16-18th December 2011 at BRAC University Dhaka. She was also nominated as the board member of "Inter Asia Cultural Studies Society".

**Tanveer Reza Rouf**, lecturer at ESS, attended a two hour online master class on "Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies" by **Dr. Newton Campos** from the IE Business School, Madrid, Spain. In the session on 24 January 2012, Professor Campos discussed the paradoxical impact that obstacles can play on the development of new businesses in the growing regions all over the world. Subsequently, a debate was hosted to reflect on how people can generate benefits from these obstacles by identifying business opportunities and putting ideas into practice in some emerging markets that will soon become the largest players in the world.

## RS Updates

### Social Learning Lab

The first phase of the Social Learning Lab of the Residential Semester Spring-2012 was organized on 4 February 2012. This semester, 111 students took part in the first phase, taking over the whole RS official responsibilities. They showed a lot of enthusiasm with ended the activity successfully. On 6th February, students presented their reflection of the practical session in groups from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The reflections were sound and they promised that they will uphold the dignity of human being.

### Drug Abuse Seminar



The seminar on Drug Abuse for the spring 2012 semester was held on 26 January 2012. It was principally conducted by Brother Ronald Drahozal, CSC, Director of APON (Ashokti Punarbashan Nibash), while the other speakers in the seminar were victims of drug abuse sharing their own



experiences with the students. The seminar ended with a question-answer session in which the students participated.

### **Socrates-er-Jobanbondi**

Theater Drishyapat staged its highly praised drama Socrates-er-Jobanbondi at Markuli Hall of the Residential Campus of BRAC University in the evening of 28 January, 2012. As an extended learning activity for the Ethics and Culture course, the objective of staging the drama for the students was to portray the ancient viewpoint of morality and its classical appeal in present society. The drama, a travesty of democracy, exhibited the absence of proper reasoning in the judgment process and how the judges patronized by the state leaders shrewdly ignored the laws. It further showed how the hypocritical democracy in Greek did not allow an individual to think freely and speak his or her mind.

It is worthy to mention that the drama Socrates-er-Jobanbondi is based on Plato's Apologia Sokratous (Defense of Socrates), which is an account of Socrates' trial that took place in spring 399 B.C. In fact, Plato wrote this Apologia some time after witnessing the whole trial himself. However, the Bangla play, Socrates-er-Jobanbondi was written by Shishir Kumar



Das and was directed by Ali Mahmud who also performed the role of Socrates. The session ended with the students sharing their response to the drama, and some of them even urged the need for the development of our judicial system and social values.

### **Semester Orientation at Savar Campus**

A daylong orientation programme for the newly enrolled students of RS Spring'12 was held at Markuli hall on 14 January 2012. The session was facilitated by **Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRACU, **Mr. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury**, Campus Superintendent (CS) of Savar Campus and **Ms. Farrah Jabeen**, Sr. Lecturer, CfL where all the staff and teachers of Savar Campus were present to be acquainted with the new students. Meanwhile, the C S gave a briefing on Residential Semester and Savar Campus. Course teachers of three basic courses of RS (Bangladesh Studies, Ethics and English) provided the participants with short introduction about their courses.

In the second session, students worked in different groups to develop social capital and shared with other students in a plenary session. In the plenary students discussed about the norms that they would follow during their stay at Savar Campus.

### **English Week observed at Residential Campus**

English week was observed at Residential Campus of BRAC University from 22

January 2012 to 26 January 2012 amid a lot of fun and enthusiasm. The week played a significant role to ensure English speaking in the campus. It also encouraged all to use English as a tool of communication in their personal and academic life. Accordingly, students, faculty members and management staff used English for their daily communication from 9am to 5pm. The students who were found not using English were identified by their fellows for attending a speaking session at evening. First day, 8 students were identified and the number was falling as the week progressed. All the students enjoyed this activity as a new window for practicing English.

### **Integrated session on Seven Habits to become successful students**

An integrated session on 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Students' was held on January 21 at Markuli Hall, Savar Residential Campus. The first session was conducted by Professor **Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University with a lecture focusing on how to get used to the seven habits as a student. The lecture incorporated the main theme of 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People', one of the influential and bestseller books written by Stephen R. Covey. Students were divided into ten groups, later on, they shared ideas in plenary session. Faculty members supported each group to facilitate the plenary session. Students explored the strategies and possible challenges to bring 7 habits in practice. In their group activity they cited examples from their practical life and evaluated the whole session at the end.

### **Parent's day-Spring-2012 at Savar Campus**

In the afternoon of 21 January 2012 BRACU Savar Campus observed "Parents Day" with the parents/guardians of the residential students of spring 2012. Almost 400 parents/guardians came to see their wards. Professor **Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, the Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University contributed greatly on that day talking and sharing with the visiting parents. With the help of all faculty members, house tutors, and staff, the day was observed successfully.

### **Grooming and Etiquette session**

A session on Grooming & Etiquette was held on January 28, 2012 from 10:00am - 12:00pm at Markuli hall of Savar Residential Campus. **Ms. Farrah Jabeen**, Sr. Lecturer of CfL, BRACU facilitated the session. The session was participatory in nature and the discussion was mainly focused on students' appropriate manners in public places, dining and proper way of living in a community.

The session helped students be concerned about their self-esteem to create a positive learning environment, boost up their confidence and maintain social etiquettes. In the session a video was also shown to acquaint students with basic dining etiquettes in formal situations followed by a discussion while students participated spontaneously.

## SECS Updates

### IEEE BRACU Student Branch elects its new executive committee for the year 2012

BRAC University IEEE Student branch, inaugurated in 2008, is one of the regional branches for engineering students of BRAC University, under IEEE, the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineering. The institute is an international professional affiliation designed for technological advancements and for inspiring existing and future members to engage in eclectic technical activities in the engineering field. The organization also helps to develop leadership and management skills in the upcoming engineers.

On completion of its 3rd year in BRAC University, the IEEE branch now moves on to its 4th generation with an aim to uphold the glory of the branch once again. The successful year by the former executive body, **Tasneem Rumman Huq**, (Chair), **Jonayet Hossain** (Vice-Chair), **Mahmudul Hasan Oyon** (Secretary) and **Syedur Rahman Sakir** (Treasurer) came to an end in December 2011 and effective from January 2012 the new executive body was formed with **Sabbir Ahmed Khan** ( Department of EEE) as the Chair, **Syed Musa Sunny** ( Department of EEE) as the Vice-Chair, **Farah Shabnam** ( Department of EEE) as the Secretary and **Ahmed Hosne Zenan** ( Department of EEE) as the Treasurer.

## SPH Updates

### JPGSPH moving to new premises at ICDDR'B

The JPGSPH has started moving to its new premises at the 6th floor of ICDDR'B (68 Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212) from January 22, 2012. Full details of the new JPGSPH office will be available in the next bulletin.

### Academic Program

*Master of Public Health*

### Integration Workshop

An Integration Workshop was held from January 10, 11, 12 and 14 & 15, 2012. It was conducted towards the end of the MPH programme for all the students of the 7th Batch. The workshop was facilitated by **Dr. Jon Rhode** and **Dr. Cole P. Dodge** and the Teaching Fellow was **Asif Kashem**, Research Associate. The workshop included sessions where all students interacted with each other and discussed the strengths and weakness of each module. Students also had a session on future career prospects where a panel of experts from BRAC, ICDDR'B and BRAC University answered their questions.

### Graduate Forum



The seventh Graduates Forum was held at the Sasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR'B on January 19, 2012 celebrating the completion of the 7th MPH.

The Chief Guest this year was Honorable Professor **Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of Brac University. **Dr. Timothy Grant Evans** Dean of the JPGSPH, Brac University gave the opening remarks. The Special Address was by **Dr. Jon Rohde** on "The Road Ahead: Public Health Beyond the University". **Dr. Alejandro Cravioto**, Associate Dean, JPGSPH and Executive Director, ICDDR'B also addressed the gathering. **Dr. Timothy Grant Evans**, congratulated the students on reaching the end of their MPH program and handed out the certificates. Every year, bright, dynamic, and enterprising MPH graduates are given awards for their commitment, contribution, and enrichment to the MPH program. Professor **Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, handed out the awards to the MPH graduates. The names of the awards and recipients are provided below.

### **Award Recipients**


<b>Award</b>	<b>Recipients</b>
Allen Rosenfield Award for Best Overall Performance	Emily Kathleen Eck (USA) Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman (Bangladesh) and Sumangala Chaudhury (India)
Sir Fazle Hasan Abed Award for Leadership	Lata Devi Bajracharya (Nepal)
WB Greenough III Award for Best Dissertation	Nabaliisa Joyce (Uganda) and Hari Krishna Bhattarai (Nepal)

Richard Cash Award for Best Poster

Musarrat Jabeen Rahman (Bangladesh) receiving the award from Dr. Richard Cash himself



Additionally, the following faculty member was recognized for his exemplary teaching excellence and commitment to the students.

Award	Recipients
<p data-bbox="261 842 846 905">Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain Teaching Excellence Award</p> <p data-bbox="261 1010 878 1073">Professor Dr. Stephen P. Luby, James P Grant School of Public Health</p>	 A photograph showing Professor Dr. Stephen P. Luby, an older man in a dark suit, presenting a framed award to James P Grant, a younger man in a light blue shirt and tie. They are standing at a table with a microphone and other items.

Five students, one national and four international, were randomly selected to present their MPH theses. Two students, one national and one international were selected to speak about their experiences in Bangladesh on behalf of the student body. **Dr. Sabina F Rashid**, Professor & MPH Coordinator, provided a brief overview of the expectations of the MPH dissertations and introduced the five students whose theses were selected at random to be presented to the audience. The selected students were **Rumana Yusuf**, Bangladesh; **Hari Krishna Bhattarai**, Nepal; **Miatta Zenabu**, Liberia; **Simon Munyiri Andrew**, Kenya; and **Sumangala Chaudhury**, India The forum was concluded by Professor **Ainun Nishat** congratulating the student body and wishing them good fortune. The forum was followed by a MPH final thesis poster presentation, where the graduates shared their experiences with families, friends, faculty, and potential students. **Ms. Maliha Bassam**, Documentation and Communication Officer was the MC (Master of Ceremony) at the Forum. It was attended by more than 200 persons, including the School's faculty and staff, adjunct faculty, supervisors, examiners from ICDDR,B, BRAC, BRAC University, parents of the students and representatives from the Diplomatic Community.

## Orientation for 8th Batch of MPH Students at BRAC CDM, Rajendrapur

The Orientation for the 8th Batch of the MPH students was held on January 28, 2012 at CDM, Rajendrapur. Within the current eighth batch of the MPH students, there are 20 international and 17 national students. The international students represent nations such as Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Uganda. In addition, as part of collaboration between the George Washington University and JPGSPH, 8 GWU MPH students will be taking a semester at the School.



The orientation day created an opportunity for the GWU students to meet and interact with the current JPGSPH MPH Students. All students interacted with the current MPH students and were introduced to some of the faculty who were present. This was followed by an ice breaking session where all students and faculty got involved and a fun and enjoyable environment was created. During this icebreaking sessions, students introduced themselves and talked briefly about their likes and dislikes. The students attended the afternoon session where the MPH Coordinator, Professor, **Sabina Faiz Rashid** introduced the School and talked briefly about the MPH Program. **Dr. Prea Gulati**, Faculty at GWU was also present at the Orientation along with some faculty from the School. The Communication and Knowledge Manager **Ayesha Dastgir**, touched upon plans for the International Alumni Association Network to be formed. The students then explored the whole BRAC CDM area for the rest of the day and went back to Niketan where they are staying.

BRAC University has been awarded with a grant by UNICEF on Review of Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Projects currently implemented by UNICEF to Recommend a Single Optimum MNCH Model. The consortium will be led by James P Grant SPH, BRAC University with the partnership of ICDDR,B, and the Averting Maternal Death and Disability Program (AMDD) of the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. A series of meeting with donors and Ministry of Health, Bangladesh took place in January 2012. Lynn Freedman, Professor and

Director of AMDD and her team joined the meetings with JPGSPH (**Dr. Malabika Sarker**, Professor, **Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Professor and MPH Coordinator; **Sameera Hossain** Research Associate, and **Ahat Mahmud**, Research Associate) and ICDDR,B (**Dr. Alayne Adams**, Professor and Senior Scientist; and **Dr. Muntasirur Rahman**, Scientist) team.

### Faculty and Staff News

**Dr. Timothy Grant Evans**, Dean of JPGSPH, **Dr. Jahangir Khan**, Adjunct Associate Professor, JPGSPH and **Kuhel Faizul Islam**, Research Associate and Internship Coordinator, JPGSPH attended the Prince Mahidol Award Conference 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand from 24 - 28 January 2012. The Conference was jointly convened by the Prince Mahidol Award Conference, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and other key global partners. The principal theme of the conference was "Moving towards Universal Health Coverage: Health Financing Matters."

Several plenary and parallel sessions on health financing and coverage were organized with presentations by some developing countries that are successfully moving towards health coverage. Field visits were organized to observe the health system structure across different provinces of Thailand and how they progressively achieved universal health coverage for the entire population. There was a summary synthesis on the concluding day where several agenda were put forward on achieving sustainable and equitable health coverage for all strata of the population.

**Dr. Timothy Grant Evans**, Dean, James P Grant School of Public Health, along with Prof. **Dr. Shah Abdul Latif**, Director, Medical Education and Man Power Development, Directorate General of Health Services, **MoHFW**, met on January 16, 2012 at GDLN Conference Room, BRAC University to discuss the current status and future activities of the Health Professional Education Situational Analysis under 5 Country Network Project (HPE-SA Project). The meeting was also attended by Professor **Dr. Md. Ismail Khan**, Dean, Faculty of Medicine University of Dhaka, Professor **Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid**, JPGSPH, BRAC University and MPH Coordinator, **Dr. Khaled Shamsul Islam**, Deputy Chief, HRDU and HRH Focal Point, **MOHFW**; **Dr. Ahmed AL-Kabir**, President, RTM International and Chairman, Rupali Bank, **Dr. Khaled Hassan**, Medical Officer-HRH, WHO Bangladesh Office, and JPGSPH study team led by **Dr. Nasima Selim**, Senior Lecturer, JPGSPH, BRAC University.

**Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid**, Professor, JPGSPH and MPH Coordinator attended the LANCET meeting in Bangkok, Thailand from January 24-26, 2012.

**Ms. Ayesha Dastgir**, has joined JPGSPH as Communication and Knowledge Manager. She has been working in Bangladesh since 1995. **Ayesha** brings with her professional experiences in communication and research work where she coordinated a nine country qualitative research project and extensive humanitarian work. She completed her MBA in 1998 from Maastricht School of Management, Netherlands as part of a joint program with Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). She also has undergraduate degrees from Delhi University, India and USA.

**Dr. Nasima Selim**, Senior Lecturer, JPGSPH and **Anuradha Hashemi**,

Researcher, JPGSPH participated on January 7, 2012 as discussant in a seminar on "Youth & Culture" organized by the department of Anthropology, Jahangirnagar University, Savar.

WHO HRH Policy Impact Assessment Tool (PIAT) Project: The research team led by **Md. Nuruzzaman**, Research Associate, JPGSPH, BRAC University went to Kishorgonj on January 25-27, 2012 to visit its district based hospital, Civil Surgeon's office and Deputy Director's Family Planning office for data collection purpose related to the same project.

## Student Affairs Updates

### Club and Forum Updates

#### BUCC Organized Club Fair



BRAC University arranges club fairs each semester. The main objective of club fairs is to introduce freshers with the Clubs and Forums. Students are highly encouraged to join at least one club or forum. The club fair gives new students an opportunity to be introduced to different clubs, and pick the clubs of their choice. On the other hand, Club Fair is a great platform for all the clubs to welcome students to their individual clubs. This semester BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) was responsible for arranging the fair. Currently there are 33 clubs and forums in BRAC University.

This year the club fair was held on the 26th of January. Thirty-two clubs and forums of BRAC University joined the fair. Stalls for the clubs were set up in the indoor auditorium of BRAC University and a part of the cafeteria. Club representatives took their respective places early in the morning, and club members decorated the stalls with banners, lights, craftworks etc. The Football and Film clubs sold T-shirts specially made for the fair. The main attraction of the indoor games room was the decoration done by BUCC. A cylindrical structure held fairy lights at the center of the auditorium. The entire indoor and cafeteria was lit with colorful lights, and the walls covered with multicolored papers.

**Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir** (Pro-Vice Chancellor), **Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury** (Registrar), and **Dr. Zainab F Ali** (Director, Student Affairs) inaugurated the event at 9:30am. BUCC members worked very hard for weeks to arrange the club fair. Some of them even worked at BRAC University overnight on the 25th. **Dr. Zainab F Ali** expressed her satisfaction about the entire fair, and praised BUCC for being efficient. **Dr. Mumit Khan** (Chairperson, Computer Science & Engineering Department),



**Ms. Ismat Shereen** (Head, Relationship Management Office), **Annajiat Alim Rasel** (Advisor, BUCC), and **Md. Shamsul Kaonain** (Co-Advisor, BUCC) paid a visit to the festival. Their presence was highly encouraging for the BUCC members.

Huge crowds were seen during the club fair. The music brought the full festive flavor. Many faculty members also visited the fair. BRAC University Drama & Theater Forum (BUDTF) performed a drama after BUCC completed the first phase of day one at one o'clock. BRAC University Cultural Club (BUCuC) carried on with a cultural show. Visitors left the fair in the evening with happy memories. The 30th of January was the second day of the festival. BRAC University Film Club (BUFC) arranged a film show open for all. Three latest movies were screened in the indoor games room throughout the day. Organizing the club fair was a great experience for BUCC members, and BUCC will be happy to organize any occasions in future where their experience might be useful.

### **BUCC meets with Mozilla Representative**

Computer Club (BUCC) and Mozilla Community Bangladesh are going to jointly organize a program called "Mozilla Awareness Campaign in Bangladesh". The executive members of BUCC along with **Annajiat Alim Rasel** (Advisor, BUCC) had a meeting with **Md. Ashickur Rahman**, Mozilla Representative (ReMo) on the 31st of January 2012. The agenda, features and flow of the program was discussed in the meeting. BUCC has always encouraged students to use free and open source software (FOSS) and to know about new and open web technologies. BUCC hopes to arrange Mozilla Awareness Campaign on the first week of March 2012.

### **BUCC Monthly meet-up for Upcoming Activities**

Over a hundred and fifty new members signed-up in BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) in the club fair this spring. Having such a huge response, **Annajiat Alim Rasel** (Advisor) and **Md. Shamsul Kaonain** (Co-advisor) of BUCC assembled few meetings with the executive body and active members of the club planning how to conduct the fresher's orientation. The hour-long meetings included preparation plans and decisions about the upcoming events of BUCC- Microsoft Talkz, programming and gaming contest. **Abu Mohammad Hammad Ali** (Faculty, SECS) was also present.

Every semester BUCC arranges intra-university gaming contest. The gaming contest for Spring 2012 will be held soon. Students who love programming awaits "Top BRACU" programming contest each semester. This time BUCC is planning to award each winner with external hard disk drives to make the contest more competitive. BUCC cricket team was the semi-finalist last time they played in BRAC University Premier League (BUPL). A fresh team for BUPL Spring 2012 is under formation. This time BUCC looks forward to win the BUPL.

### **Study Tour**

The BRACU Law Club went on a study tour of the High Court at Calcutta and the National University of Juridical Sciences. a total of 13 students participated and were accompanied by **Dr. Saira Rahman Khan**, the Adviser of the Law Club and

the DCO of Student Affairs, **Mr. Nazmul**.

## TLC Updates

### 6th TLC Workshop



6th TLC Workshop on Teaching and Learning at BRACU held during January 02-05 at BRACU Savar Campus. The workshop was designed for the new instructors for BRAC University. Several experienced faculty members also join them to share their teaching experiences and expertise in BRACU. The total numbers of the participants' were 26. Among them 15 were faculty members, 4 were research associates and rest of them were from trainers, counselors, JATRI and from business executives. The facilitators were Prof. **Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, **Prof. Mumit Khan**, Prof. **Fuad H. Mallick**, **Ms. Farida Akhter**, **Ms. Liza Reshmin**, **Ms. Tamanna Maqsood**, **Mr. Ashik Sarwar**, and **Ms. Samina Anzum**, **Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury**, **Ms. Rosy Sharif**, **Mr. Monojit Kumar Ojha**, **Ms. Hasina Afroz** and **Mr. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury**.



The workshop was resided at Savar campus and the participants were taken there by January 1st evening for the Social Gathering Evening. The workshop started with creating the Social Capital: The Honor Code of the workshop on January 2nd and continued

with one after the sessions on Synergy between BRAC and BRACU, BRACU Professional Guidelines (code of conducts for teachers and students of BRACU), BRACU Account and HR Policy, How to start the First Session and Microteaching. The sessions on Why students behave the way they do, and Managing students' disruptive behavior helped the participants think differently about their students

and themselves. The sessions on Critical & Creative Thinking in Teaching and The Art of Questioning were another two important sessions which made the participants think more creatively and would help them setting examination papers more critically.



The sessions on Facilitation Skills: Direct and Indirect Instructional Strategies and Micro-teaching (by the participants) helped the participants' understand about the difference of Teacher-centered and Learners'-centered classroom and the impact of these teaching styles, tools and techniques. Students grading: The Teacher as an Evaluator of students' performance led the participants re-think for fair grading their students. Finally the session on Personal Development: Habits of High Performing Teachers was a new-eye opening for the instructors exploring own habits and teaching competences. The meditation and yoga session based on the Seventh habit: Sharpen the Saws was really an insightful learning for the participants. Organizing and participating in the Cultural Evening followed by bonfire with special diner on day 2 and a show by BRAC Popular Theater on day 3 added extra values to the workshop. The workshop was wrapped up with Cob-web method, where each one had the chance to share personal reflection about the whole workshop, wishing for the peer colleagues and giving certificates to each another.

TLC gave support to the integrated session on Personal Development: Habits of Highly Successful Students for the residential semester students held on January 21st at BRACU Savar campus. This session was a part of the Hum course: Ethics and culture. 'Personal development is a hard work. It takes time, consistency and pertinence.' The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, written by **Stephen R. Covey** (1989) embody many of the fundamental principals of human effectiveness. This session focused on the learning those principals through practical ideas to make the important changes in the students lives, both big and small so that they can get their lives on track and start living up to the potential (**Dr. F. G. Samdani**). The session started with a seven habit song followed by the power point presentation and lecture on seven habits. There was a small role play on how Habit forms and a slideshow was shown on the story of Tortoise and Hare. The beginning part of the session was facilitated by Prof. **Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**. After his presentation, the students were divided and sent into different ten sections with the respective faculty member and there was more discussion on seven habits carried on. The colloquim method was followed for the discussion part. The session was wrapped up by taking feedback from the students.

### **A TLC FORUM has been formed on January 26th**

The Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) of BRAC University has been working to upgrade the quality of teaching of its instructors. Keeping this in focus, a four - day residential workshop on Teaching and Learning at BRACU is organized in each semester break for the instructors/ researchers joining at BRACU. So far total of 140 instructors attended this workshop. Now it has been realized that it would be better if we could organize a functional committee for the instructors/ researchers who have already attended the TLC workshops. However, a special meeting was organized on 26th January, 2012 for discussing the issues of organizing this committee. Some 12 TLC graduates from different TLC workshops (TLC I - TLC VI) were present in the meeting. The meeting was facilitated by Prof. **Md. Golam Samdani Fakir** and Prof. **Mumit Khan**. The members present in the meeting strongly suggested to create a committee for the TLC graduates and based on their suggestions a forum named "TLC Forum" was created with the Mission of providing relevant and required academic support to the activities of the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) for ensuring continuous improvement of teaching and learning at BRACU. An Advisory committee headed by the Director of TLC will provide strategic support to the TLC Forum. The TLC Forum will be coordinated by a Convener on voluntary basis. However, the working period may be fixed for a particular semester. A Working Group consisting of 12 Instructors/ Researchers will be responsible for carrying the activities of TLC Forum. All the instructors attended the TLC workshop / waiting for attending the workshop will be members of General Committee. **Dr. Seuty Sabur** has been selected as the First Convener of TLC Forum.

### **TLC initiated a pilot program on TLC Yoga and Meditation Circle (TYMC) at BRACU from January 23rd**



TLC initiated TLC Yoga and Meditation Circle (TYMC) at BRACU from January 23rd 2012 as a pilot program. The sessions are holding twice a week (each Monday and Wednesday) from 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. at UB# 0223 BRACU Mohakhali campus. A number of 22 BRACU faculty members, researchers and staffs are attending this

TYMC regularly. The TYMC is facilitated by Prof. **Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**. Any interested BRACU family member can join this TYMC any time since it is cost-free and has been designed only for the BRACU faculty and staffs who love themselves and want to serve his/her organization, society and country with the optimum efficiency in sound health, mind, heart and spirit.