



Inspiring Excellence

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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April 2016



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Inspiring Excellence





BRAC UNIVERSITY NEW CAMPUS  
(UNDER CONSTRUCTION)



Inspiring Excellence



## Statement of Chairperson Board of Trustees

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This year marks the fourteenth year since the founding of BRAC University in 2001. During this period, more than 6,000 young men and women have graduated from the University after receiving a quality education. The total number of students presently enrolled exceeds 7,500.

Our goal is to make BRAC University one of the topmost institutions of higher learning offering the highest quality of teaching in the region. This has inspired an ongoing initiative to strengthen the quality of teaching and learning within the University. The entire team involved in the teaching-learning process is engaged in this exercise, which plans to deliver training to every University faculty member.

BRAC University endeavours through a liberal education to produce graduates who possess the attributes needed to achieve personal success and make a valuable contribution to Bangladeshi society. Chief among these are the ability to think critically and express their thoughts articulately; an appreciation of the arts and sciences; the capacity to collaborate with others; the skills needed to navigate their way through constantly evolving technology; and a global perspective.

With regard to the new University campus, I am pleased to report that the construction formalities are now complete and mobilisation for the start of construction activity is under way. We expect to move in to the new campus in 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Hasan Abed', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees  
BRAC University



## Statement of Vice Chancellor

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BRAC University embodies the message in its tag line--Inspiring Excellence!

The University subscribes to the fundamental conviction that education is a catalyst for positive change and the cornerstone for building strong, resilient and enduring communities. With its liberal arts ethos, the University also instills a spirit of inquiry, professionalism, social consciousness, and deep sense of patriotism. It provides many opportunities to grow academically, intellectually, socially and as well-rounded human beings. In the process, critical thinking is emphasized, teamwork promoted, technology awareness instilled, quantitative skills inculcated, new veins of research pursued, multi-cultural awareness, empathy and diversity appreciation developed, interpersonal competencies fostered, practical life skills honed, and a deep ethical perspective woven into its fabric.

Established in 2001, the University strives to provide high-quality education by providing students and faculty the wherewithal to move on to new heights as an academic institution. The University is forging ahead with a diverse set of new program initiatives: a modern curriculum, student engagement, faculty development, research endeavors, international collaborations, building a state-of-the-art campus, industry partnerships, alumni relations and much more. Making transformative impact on students, faculty, industry and society is the aim of these programs.

Today, the University is at the forefront of a campaign to create sustainable and lasting change in Bangladesh and throughout the rest of the developing world. Three fundamental initiatives driving this change are rooted in the belief that collaborative endeavors will build synergies, leading to new and innovative ideas that, ultimately, will have deep social impact. Collaborative endeavors are thus a hallmark of our global positioning strategies and aspirations. It is also our conviction that innovation drives progress in society and helps us face a variety of evolving challenges. By emphasizing collaboration and innovation in its major endeavors BRAC University continues to remain the front-running institution it is known to be and to make its contributions felt in the region and beyond.

As Vice Chancellor, I am deeply committed to ensuring that the faculty, students and staff are dedicated to academic excellence, pedagogical sophistication, top-notch research, and service to society. In our mission to contribute to national development, BRAC University stands tall as a center of excellence that is able to develop confident leaders, independent thinkers and creative entrepreneurs. We also focus on professional development of our students in order to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to play a leading role in different sectors of the economy and polity. The University's programs for faculty development - to be versed in pedagogical sophistication and equipped with methodological acumen in research endeavors - also ensures a dynamic and futuristic environment for teaching and research.

In our internationalization efforts, we are expanding our global network of partner institutions that span leading universities in Europe, North America and Australia. We have also begun working with the diaspora to develop innovative programs that harness the knowledge and skills of those born in Bangladesh who now want to give back to the country of their birth.

With our many stellar achievements, we are proud of our leadership role in higher education in Bangladesh. I trust this report will provide many insights into what makes BRAC University the entity that it is today and what it aspires to be in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Syed Saad Andaleeb". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Syed" and last name "Andaleeb" clearly distinguishable.

Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.  
Vice Chancellor



Inspiring Excellence

## **GOVERNANCE**

Board of Trustees  
Syndicate  
Academic Council

## GOVERNANCE

*Chancellor*

**Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid**

Hon'ble President, People's Republic of Bangladesh

*Vice Chancellor*

**Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.**

*Pro-Vice Chancellor*

**Professor Fuad Hassan Mallik, Ph.D.**

*Treasurer*

**Mr. Sukhendra Kumar Sarkar**

*Registrar*

**Muhammad Sahool Afzal**

Major General (Retired)

### Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees (BoT) is the highest policy making body of BRAC University. It is responsible for ensuring that the highest level of educational and administrative standards are set and maintained at BRAC University. The current BoT consists of the following eminent personalities of Bangladesh:



*Chairperson*

**Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG**

Founder & Chairperson, BRAC

*Members*



**Mr. Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury**

Chairman  
BRACNet Ltd



**Professor Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Ph.D.**

Vice Chairperson, BRAC



**Professor Anisuzzaman, Ph.D.**

Professor Emeritus  
Dhaka University



**Professor Dilara Chowdhury, Ph.D.**

Former Professor  
Department of Government and Politics  
Jahangir Nagar University



**Mr. Faruq Ahmad Choudhury**

Chairman  
Delta BRAC Housing



**Professor Mahabub Hossain, Ph.D.**

Distinguished Professor & Chairperson  
Department of Economics and Social Sciences  
BRAC University



**Ms. Rasheda K. Choudhury**

Executive Director  
Campaign for Popular Education  
(CAMPE)



**Professor Salma Khan**

Chairperson  
NGO Coalition on Beijing PFA



**Advocate Sultana Kamal**

Executive Director  
Ain o Salish Kendro (ASK)



**Ms. Tamara Hasan Abed**

Senior Director  
Enterprises  
BRAC



*Member (ex-officio)*

**Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.**

Vice Chancellor  
BRAC University



*Secretary*

**Muhammad Sahool Afzal**

Major General (Retired)  
Registrar  
BRAC University

### MEETINGS

Four meetings of the Board of Trustees took place on 23 March, 25 June, 27 October and 23 December, 2015.



## SYNDICATE

The Syndicate is the highest executive body that exercises administrative and supervisory control on academic, administrative and management activities of the University.

### *Chairperson*

**Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.**  
Vice Chancellor, BRAC University

### *Members*

**Professor Anisuzzaman, Ph.D.**  
Professor Emeritus  
Dhaka University

**Mr. Faruq Ahmad Choudhury**  
Chairman  
Delta BRAC Housing

**Professor Shafique uz Zaman, Ph.D.**  
Department of Economics  
Dhaka University

**Mr. Md. Helal Uddin**  
Additional Secretary  
Ministry of Education  
Bangladesh Secretariat

**Ms. Tamara Hasan Abed**  
Senior Director, Enterprises  
BRAC

**Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, Ph.D.**  
Pro-Vice Chancellor  
BRAC University

**Professor Sayeed Salam, Ph.D.**  
Chairperson  
Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering  
BRAC University

**Professor Firdous Azim, Ph.D.**  
Chairperson  
Department of English and Humanities  
BRAC University

**Professor K. Shamsuddin Mahmood**  
Dean  
School of Law  
BRAC University

**Mr. Sukhendra Kumar Sarkar**  
Treasurer, BRAC University

### *Member Secretary*

**Muhammad Sahool Afzal**  
Major General (Retired)  
Registrar  
BRAC University

## MEETINGS

Four meetings of the Syndicate took place on 19 March, 17 June, 19 October and 17 December, 2015.

## ACADEMIC COUNCIL

The Academic Council recommends the educational policies of the university and determines the curricula and courses that can help achieve high educational standards. The council is currently composed of the following academics and professionals:

### *Chairperson*

**Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.**  
Vice Chancellor, BRAC University

### *Members*

**Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, Ph.D.**  
Pro-Vice Chancellor  
BRAC University

**Ms. Rasheda K. Choudhury**  
Executive Director  
Campaign for Popular Education  
(CAMPE)

**Professor Salma Khan**  
Chairperson  
NGO Coalition on Beijing PFA

**Professor Iqbal Mahmud, Ph.D.**  
Professor Emeritus &  
Former Vice Chancellor, BUET

**Professor John D Clemens, Ph.D.**  
Executive Director  
ICDDR,B

**Professor Rahim B. Talukder, Ph.D.**  
Adviser  
BRAC Business School  
BRAC University

**Professor Sabina F. Rashid, Ph.D.**  
Dean  
James P Grant School of Public Health  
BRAC University

**Professor K. Shamsuddin Mahmood**  
Dean  
School of Law  
BRAC University

**Professor Shaheda Rahman**  
Chairperson  
Department of Architecture  
BRAC University

**Professor Md. Haider Ali, Ph.D.**  
Chairperson  
Department of Computer Science and Engineering  
BRAC University

**Professor Mahabub Hossain, Ph.D.**  
Distinguished Professor & Chairperson  
Department of Economics and Social Sciences  
BRAC University

**Professor Md. Sayeed Salam, Ph.D.**  
Chairperson  
Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering  
BRAC University

**Professor Firdous Azim, Ph.D.**  
Chairperson  
Department of English and Humanities  
BRAC University

**Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad, Ph.D.**  
Chairperson  
Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences  
BRAC University

**Dr. Eva Rahman Kabir**  
Chairperson (Current Charge)  
Department of Pharmacy  
BRAC University

**Dr. Erum Marlam**  
Director  
BRAC Institute of Educational Development  
BRAC University

**Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman**  
Executive Director  
BRAC Institute of Governance and Development  
BRAC University

**Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**  
Director  
BRAC Institute of Languages  
BRAC University

**Professor Md. Tafazzal Hussain, Ph.D.**  
Director  
Institutional Quality Assurance Cell  
BRAC University

### *Member Secretary*

**Muhammad Sahool Afzal**  
Major General (Retired)  
Registrar  
BRAC University

### MEETINGS

Four meetings of the Academic Council took place on 12 March, 11 June, 8 October and 10 December, 2015.

### Interpretation of Design of BRAC University Logo

The arc of the circle suggests the wish to disseminate education to an international standard and milieu.

The symbolic presentation of three books towards the bottom of the design suggests different stages, levels and subjects of education. An all-round broad-based education has been emphasized here. The suggestive drawing of open books stresses a disciplined and dynamic development of education.

The three colors used in the design - blue, black and silver; the size and shape of the letters that spell BRAC University, and the balanced presentation of the three books and the circle suggest that BRAC University is a strong and dynamic institution of international standard, dedicated to achieving the aims of education, peace, equality and discipline.

*The BRACU logo was designed by renowned artist Mr. Hashem Khan in 2001.*

A TAGLINE, 'Inspiring Excellence' was added at the bottom of the Logo on the suggestion of Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D. Vice Chancellor, BRAC University with due approval of Mr. Hashem Khan, Syndicate & BoT on 23 March 2015.



### BRAC University Anthem

জীবনের সিঁড়ি বেয়ে  
উজ্জ্বল আগামীর পথে  
আমরা এগিয়ে যাই  
দেশ ও মানুষের জন্য ॥

হৃদয়ের মাঝে বয়ে চলা সুর  
ছুঁয়ে যায় আমার অনুভব  
আমার প্রিয় এ প্রাঙ্গণের  
মিলিত প্রাণের স্পন্দনে ॥

অবারিত নীলিমায়  
ডানা মেলে উড়ে যায়  
হাজারো স্বপ্ন, প্রত্যাশা  
এক হয়ে মিশে যাক  
সৃষ্টিতে, চির তারুণ্যে ॥

কথা : আমির ইবনে শরীফ, প্রভাষক, স্থাপত্য বিভাগ, ২০০৬  
সুর : শামস্ মনসুর গনি, প্রভাষক, স্থাপত্য বিভাগ, ২০০৬



## Profile of BRAC University

### BACKGROUND

BRAC University (BRACU) was established in 2001. It follows a liberal arts approach to education, which nurtures fresh ideas and gives new impetus to tertiary education. It ensures a high quality of education and aims to meet the demands of contemporary times. Building on BRAC's experience of seeking solutions to challenges posed by extreme poverty, BRACU hopes to instill in its students a commitment to working towards national development and progress. BRACU is accredited by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and approved by the Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh.

### MISSION

The mission of BRACU is to foster the national development process through the creation of a centre of excellence in higher education that is responsive to society's needs and able to develop creative leaders and actively contributes to learning and creation of knowledge.

### GOAL

The goal of the University is to provide an excellent broad-based education with a focus on professional development for students, in order to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary for leading the country in its quest for development. Along with this, the University provides an environment for faculty development to ensure a dynamic teaching environment. Faculty are provided with an environment in which they can further their teaching-learning skills and contribute to the creation of new knowledge by developing and using their research abilities.

### Schools

- BRAC Business School (BBS)
- James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH)
- School of Engineering & Computer Science (SECS)
- School of Law (SOL)

### Academic Departments

- Department of Architecture (ARC)
- Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)

- Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS)
- Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE)
- Department of English and Humanities (ENH)
- Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS)
- Department of Pharmacy (PHR)

### Institutes

- BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED)
- BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD)
- BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL)

### Centres

- Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER)
- Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED)
- Control & Applications Research Centre (CARC)
- Teaching & Learning Centre (TLC)
- Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST)
- Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage
- Centre for Health Systems (CHS)
- Centre for Gender Sexuality and HIV/AIDS
- Global Development Learning Networking Centre (GDLN)
- Writing Centre (WC)

### Undergraduate programmes

- Bachelor of Architecture
- Bachelor of Arts in English
- Bachelor of Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Applied Physics and Electronics
- Bachelor of Science in Mathematics

- Bachelor of Science in Physics
- Bachelor of Social Science in Economics
- Bachelor of Laws, LL.B. (Hons)
- Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)
- Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology
- Bachelor of Science in Microbiology
- Bachelor of Social Sciences in Anthropology

### **Graduate Programmes**

- Master of Arts in English
- Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- Master of Science in Applied Economics
- Master of Science in Biotechnology
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Bank Management
- Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA)
- Master of Science in Computer Science and Engineering
- Master of Engineering in Computer Science and Engineering
- Master in Computer Application
- Master of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Master of Engineering in Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Development Studies
- Master of Arts in Governance and Development
- Master of Education in Educational Leadership and School Improvement

- Master of Science in Early Childhood Development
- Master in Disaster Management
- Master in Development Management and Practice
- Master in Procurement and Supply Management

### **Postgraduate Diploma Programmes/Certificate Courses**

- Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership and School Improvement
- Postgraduate Diploma in Early Childhood Development
- Postgraduate Diploma in Disaster Management
- Postgraduate Diploma in Macroeconomic Analysis
- Postgraduate Diploma in Development Management
- Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Science and Information Technology
- Postgraduate Diploma in Bank Management and IT
- Postgraduate Diploma in South Asian Development and Cooperation
- Postgraduate Certificate in Disaster Management
- Certificate in Early Childhood Development
- Certificate Course in Construction Management
- Certificate Course in Bengali, English, Chinese, French, Spanish, Korean and Arabic Language



## Highlights of 2015

A number of initiatives, events and activities have taken place in 2015. The impact and benefits of some of these activities have already been observed while others are in the process of implementation. All these activities or initiatives are part of a continuous improvement process for the University. A brief outline of all these activities/ initiatives is given below:

**Establishment of Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC):** The Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of BRACU was established in July 2015 with a view to promoting a quality enhancement culture within the University by ensuring that the academic entity adopts and implements Quality Assurance (QA) standards and benchmarked quality criteria. Different workshops and training programmes were organized by IQAC for university teachers, students and



administrative staff. Among these, the IQAC Inaugural Workshop, Workshop on Good Governance, Office & Financial Management and Training on Roles, Responsibilities and Ethical Principles of University Teachers were the most noteworthy.

**Update and Modernization of Curriculum:** The curriculum is the heart of every academic programme. In modern times, with the advancement of technology, knowledge is enriched day by day. To keep the curriculum compatible with enriched knowledge, since the beginning of 2015, departments have been strongly advised to update and modernize their curricula continuously. As a result, students will be able to learn about recent developments in knowledge and will be able to compete in the job market. In accordance with this process, a number of departments have already updated their curricula

while others are in the process of updating them. The updated curricula will soon be sent to the UGC for approval.

**Best Teacher, Researcher, Community Service and Staff Awards:** In 2015, BRACU, for the first time, honoured the best performers of the university in the fields of teaching, research, community service and administration. A formal ceremony was held to



award these best performers where all faculty members and staff were present. Winners received their award from the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG. As a result, faculty members and staff were even more inspired to perform better in the future.

**Vice Chancellor's Lunch with Top Performing Students of Each Semester:** Once a semester, the Vice Chancellor's office organizes a formal lunch with the top performing students from each programme where he encourages them to study and be more involved in social change. He also encourages them to talk about problems and obstacles they face in the University and asks for their advice on overcoming these issues. As a result, students' perceptions and ideas are reflected in University operations and students are motivated to put more thought into these issues.

**Survey of Students' Perception about University:** In 2015, Vice Chancellor of BRACU, conducted a survey among the students to learn their perceptions about their respective programmes and about the University as a whole. The survey was conducted anonymously so that students could express their feelings freely. In the questionnaire, issues like status of the programme, curriculum, condition of the facilities and behaviour of teachers and administrators towards students were included.



The Vice Chancellor, while visiting different departments and conversing with faculty groups, showed the results of the survey and advised them to improve according to the comments received from students.

**Building Research Profile of Faculty Members:**

One of the prime goals of a tertiary education institution is to create knowledge through research in addition to its dissemination. BRACU has always attached immense importance to research. As such, the University created a research profile of all faculty members by departments/schools/institutes/centres. In this profile, all publications of faculty members (journal articles, books, book chapters and conference and workshop proceedings) since 2009 were listed and published on the University website ([bracu.ac.bd/academic/research](http://bracu.ac.bd/academic/research)). It has created a platform for healthy competition among faculty members, both internally and externally.

**Strengthening Research Capacity for Faculty Members:**

To strengthen the research capacity for faculty, the University organized a number of workshops in 2015 on 'research methodology' and brought researchers from top class universities around the world i.e. Indiana University, Pennsylvania State University, University of Texas, etc.

**Distinguished Scholar Series:** BRACU has invited a number of international scholars over the years to build the capacity of faculty and students in their respective sectors. In 2015, the university brought scholars from the field of marketing, economics, literature, research methodology, etc.

**Scholars Programme for Students:** BRACU started a 'scholars programme' for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students to build their capacity in research, leadership and other marketable skills. It is now in the pilot phase. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students who scored a CGPA of 3.5 or more will enroll in this programme. Enrolled students will be attached to a senior teacher and will be trained by taking a number of courses and participating in workshops and seminars.

**Branding of the University:** As part of the branding of the University, a 'tag line' was introduced in the logo of BRACU which is 'Inspiring Excellence'. This tag line reflects the mission and vision of the University.

**Amendment of Faculty Yearly Evaluation and Promotion Policy:**

In 2015, BRACU revised and amended their existing policy for faculty evaluation and promotion. In this policy, objective/output based performance and achievements are encouraged rather than conducting stereo-typed jobs. This will encourage faculty to put more focus on and effort into building their capacity towards becoming scholars and achieving success in their respective fields.

**Scholarship and Financial Aid:**

In 2015, a total of 736 students were awarded scholarships and financial aids from the University, out of which 48 students received scholarships based on merit and the rest (688 students) received financial aid in different categories. For the financial aid category, 48 students were sons of freedom fighters, 306 students were poor but meritorious, and 334 students received aid in other categories.

**Collaboration and MoU(s):**

- a. Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training (BIPSOT)
- b. Open Society Institute Budapest Foundation & Central European University
- c. Middle East Technical University (METU)
- d. American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS)
- e. University Grants Commission (UGC) for Institutional Quality Assurance Cell

**Construction of New Campus:** The University is currently constructing its new campus. The building will be one of the best state-of-the-art structures in South Asia. The construction will be completed within the next three years.

**Focus on Internationalization:** As a growing realization dawns that the world is deeply unequal and unjust, so too grows the realization that it is primarily the role of progressive institutions like BRACU to respond to this core challenge at intellectual and academic levels as a precursor to taking practical remedial action. It is felt that now is the time for BRACU to make its mark on the world stage and, with this essential notion in mind, BRACU has embarked on establishing its first international office. Mr. Khan Ahmed Murshid, newly designated Director of International Programmes commenced work in December 2015 and is leading BRACU internationalization efforts.



## 10<sup>th</sup> Convocation, BRACU 2015



The 10<sup>th</sup> Convocation of BRACU took place at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka on 5 November 2015. Mr. Abdul Hamid, Hon'ble President, People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor, BRACU, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and presided over the ceremony. Mr. Matiur Rahman, Editor & Publisher, Daily Prothom Alo, was the Convocation Speaker.

This much-anticipated event saw the formal graduation of 959 students with Mashiat Nawar Chowdhury (BS-Bio) and Faisal Bin Rashed (MS-Bio) receiving the Chancellor's Medal and a further twenty-seven achievers (13 undergraduates and 14 postgraduates) from different departments receiving the Vice Chancellor's Medal. Five thousand guests, graduating students and their parents/guardians were joined by staff, faculty members, distinguished guests and media representatives.



The Chancellor joined the Convocation Procession after greeting members of the Board of Trustees, Syndicate and Academic Council. As the Hon'ble Chancellor assumed his place on stage, the national anthem was played and the formal declaration of opening of the 10<sup>th</sup> Convocation was made by the Chancellor.

In his address, the Hon'ble Chancellor and President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh lauded the achievements of BRACU in these words, "আমি জেনে অত্যন্ত আনন্দিত যে ২০০১ সালে প্রতিষ্ঠার পর ব্র্যাক ইউনিভার্সিটি



তাদের আন্তরিক প্রচেষ্টা, বিশ্বমানের কারিকুলাম গ্রহণ ও যুগোপযোগী শিক্ষা প্রদানের মাধ্যমে বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়গুলোর মধ্যে গুণগত উচ্চশিক্ষা প্রদানে সাফল্যের স্বাক্ষর রাখতে সক্ষম হয়েছে। তিনি আরো বলেন, "আমি বিশ্বাস করি, ব্র্যাক ইউনিভার্সিটি আদর্শ জাতি গঠনে যে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অবদান রেখে চলেছে তা সুন্দর বাংলাদেশ বিনির্মাণে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা রাখবে"।

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, KCMG, Chairperson, BoT, in his speech said, "আমি আশা করি যে পেশাতেই তোমরা





নিরোজিত হওনা কেন সেখানেই সর্বোচ্চ দক্ষতার পরিচয় দেবে। যে দায়িত্বই তোমাদের উপর অর্পিত হোক না কেন তা নিষ্ঠা ও সততার সঙ্গে পালন করবে। জ্ঞান সৃষ্টি, মনন চর্চা এবং সামাজিক অঙ্গিকার পালনের মহৎ উদ্দেশ্য নিয়ে আমরা ব্র্যাক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় প্রতিষ্ঠা করেছি এবং এ উদ্দেশ্য বাস্তবায়নে আমরা বদ্ধপরিকর”।



The Vice Chancellor, Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, in his welcome speech mentioned some significant achievements of the university by stating; “ব্র্যাক ইউনিভার্সিটি তার পঞ্চ চল্লিশ ইতোমধ্যে অসাধারণ সফলতার স্বাক্ষর রেখেছে। আধুনিক শিক্ষা ব্যবস্থা, গবেষণামনক কার্যক্রম, ছাত্রছাত্রীদের বিভিন্ন কর্মকাণ্ডে অংশগ্রহণ বৃদ্ধি, শিক্ষকদের জ্ঞানচর্চা ও পেশাগত দক্ষতা বৃদ্ধি, আন্তর্জাতিক যোগাযোগ স্থাপন, সুশোভিত ইউনিভার্সিটি ক্যাম্পাস নির্মাণসহ প্রভূত উন্নতি সাধনে ব্র্যাক ইউনিভার্সিটি এগিয়ে চলেছে সুন্দর, উজ্জ্বল ভবিষ্যৎ বিনির্মাণে”।



*The Hon'ble Chancellor shaking hands with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed (Chairperson, BoT) after exchanging crest.*



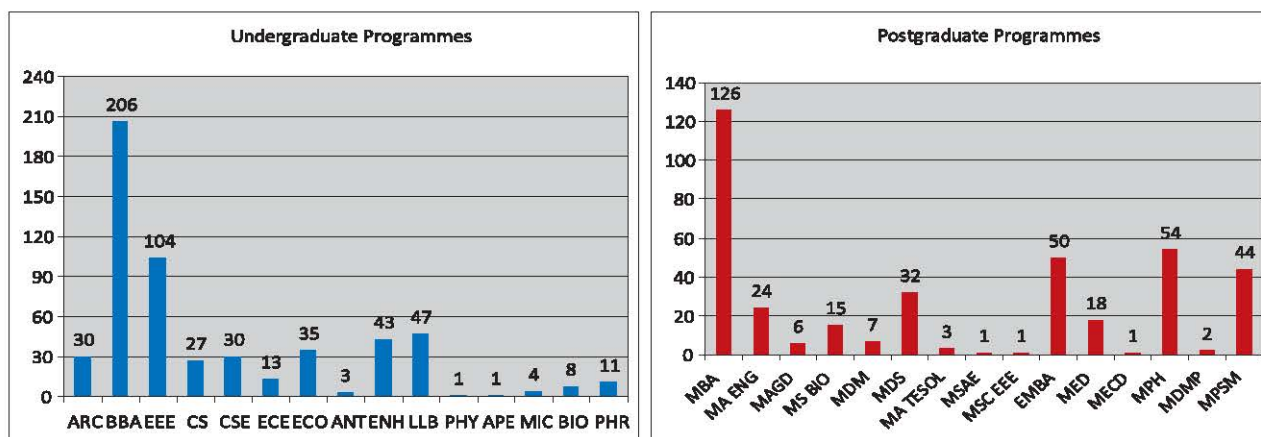
*The Chancellor exchanging pleasantries with students and guests.*



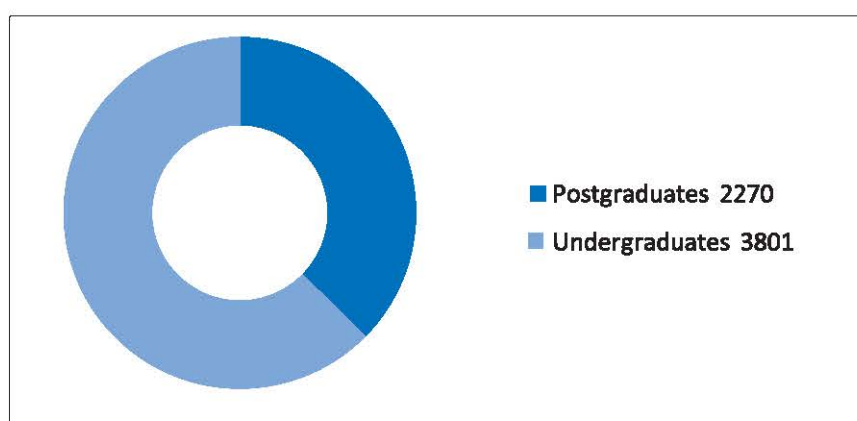
**The Chancellor awarding gold medals to the proud recipients: Mashiat Nawar Chowdhury of BS-Bio (top) and Father of Faisal Bin Rashed, MS-Bio (bottom).**



While addressing the Convocation, Mr. Matiuur Rahman, Editor & Publisher, Daily Prothom Alo, Convocation Speaker, encouraged the graduates of BRACU by stating, “আপনি পারবেন। আমরা বার বার বলব, আপনারা পারবেন। বাংলাদেশ পারবে। এ বিশ্বাস আপনাকে অদম্য করুক। আপনার মাধ্যমে আলোকিত হবে চারপাশ, এ দেশ, এ সমাজ, এ বিশ্ব। পৃথিবীর যে প্রান্তেই থাকুন মানুষের ভালর জন্য যদি আপনি কাজ করেন তা আমাদের সবার মুখ উজ্জ্বল করবে। আর আমরা জানি আপনি ভুলবেন না আপনার মাকে এবং আপনার জন্মভূমিকে, প্রিয় এই বাংলাদেশকে।”



Graduating Students Status 2015



Total Number of BRACU Graduates 2006-2015

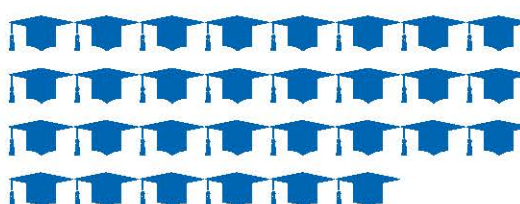
### Convocation Graduates

1<sup>st</sup> (2006)



115

10<sup>th</sup> (2015)



**Number of Academic Degrees  
offered by BRACU**

959

2001



5

2015



32



Undergraduate Degrees



Postgraduate Degrees



## BRACU NEW CAMPUS PROJECT



### Background

Being recognized as a 'beautiful campus' goes beyond just having curb appeal. A spectacular campus augments the University's image, thereby attracting more students, teachers and visitors. Since its inception, BRACU had a vision to build a world class university campus. However, it was very difficult to manage suitable land for the campus in Dhaka city. Following serious efforts by BRAC, it was possible to procure a piece of land suitably located at the city centre. Finally, this dream campus has started to turn into reality and construction has started.

WOHA Designs Pte Ltd., Singapore based world-renowned architectural firm and winner of many prestigious international awards for excellence in designs, was appointed as the design architect in May 2012 to design the BRACU new campus. Jalal Architects Ltd. was then engaged as the local architect to provide local support to the design architect. Transsolar, also a reputed International climate engineering consultant, was engaged as the climate engineering consultant to assist the design team in making the structure eco-friendly and energy efficient.

### Location:

The new BRACU campus is located in the Centre

of Communication at KHA 224, Progati Sarani, Dhaka, in close proximity to Hatirjhil, Badda, Rampura, Aftabnagar, Niketon, Mohakhali, Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara Residential Areas.

### Area of land:

The total land area is approximately 5.18 acres or 20874.7 sqm. The construction area (3 basements and 13 floors above the ground) is approximately 1599255.57 Sqft.

### Description of the Campus and Building:

It is a 13 storey building with 3 basements. There is an auditorium with 700 seats, a multipurpose hall with 1850 seats, 135 classrooms, 41 labs, 10 design studios, 6 lecture theatres, 475 car parking places, rooftop playground, park, vertical transportation, generators, substations, IT Servers, UPS, CCTVs, solar panels, lifts, escalators, stairs, fire escapes, faculty and administrative offices, teacher lounges, a cafeteria, an e-library, recreation facilities and a lake. It has facilities to accommodate around 12,000 students.

It is a green conceptual building where natural light and air can easily flow into the building. Almost 50% of the land is used for building and the rest for water body, lake, plantation and other purposes; which will protect biodiversity.



The advanced, eco-friendly and attractive campus will enhance the University spirit, thereby creating a healthy and positive environment for the students.

### Ground Breaking Announcement Programme:



The construction commencement announcement was made by Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, KCMG, Founder & Chairperson, BRAC, and Chairperson, Board of Trustees, BRACU at BRAC Centre Conference Room on 22 December 2015. Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor, BRACU presided over the session. WOHA Designs Pte Ltd's seven member team from Singapore gave a 30 minute power point presentation covering all aspects of the proposed structure of the new campus. Professor Mushtaque A. Chowdhury, Vice-Chairperson, BRAC; Dr. Muhammad Musa, Executive Director, BRAC; Mr. Faruque Ahmed, Executive Director, BRAC International; Mr. S N Kairy, CFO, BRAC and BRAC International; Mr. Asif Saleh, Senior Director, BRAC



Communications; Ms. Rachel Kabir, Director Chairperson's Office, BRAC; Engr. SM Morshad, Additional Chief Engineer, BRAC; Mr. Sukhendra Kumar Sarkar, Treasurer, BRACU; Major General (Retd) Muhammad Sahool Afzal, Registrar, BRACU; Mr. Monojit Kumar Ojha, ACA, Director Finance, BRACU; Mr. Rashidul Hai, New Campus Project Director; Arch Jalal Ahmed, Mr. Junaid Yasin, Independent Consultant and the full team from WOHA Designs Pte Ltd., Singapore were present at the formal presentation, deliberation and the announcement events.

The project is expected to be completed by December 2018.





Inspiring Excellence

## **SCHOOLS**

BRAC Business School (BBS)  
James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH)  
School of Law (SoL)



## BRAC Business School



BRAC Business School (BBS) is one of the pioneer business schools in Bangladesh. Its objective is to deliver relevant and time applicable education to the students in business. BBS aims to achieve its objectives through academic teaching, research and advisory services for various corporate entities.

The mission of BBS is to create and disseminate knowledge in the field of business and management. It strives to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of managing business and non-business organizations through excellence in business education, training, research and advisory services. The research work of the BBS faculty members has been commended in the business profession and published in various national and international journals. BBS also encourages the students to participate in extra-curricular activities through its student clubs. The school's academic excellence ensures that an increasing number of applicants have consistently enrolled in the BBS programmes. At present, the number of enrolled students is around 2600. The academic programmes that are currently offered are Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) and Master of Bank Management (MBM).

The areas of specialization of the school are

Accounting, Finance, Banking and Insurance, Human Resource Management, Marketing, Computer Information Management, E-Business, Entrepreneurship, Operations Management and International Business.

BBS has some of the finest faculty members in the country namely: Dr. Mirza Md. Azizul Islam and Dr. Akbar Ali Khan (former advisers to the Interim Caretaker Government of Bangladesh); Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed (former Governor, Bangladesh Bank); Professor Hafiz G. A. Siddiqui, Ph.D, Professor Emeritus, (former Vice Chancellor, North South University and former Director, IBA, University of Dhaka); and Professor Rahim B. Talukdar, Ph.D. (former Vice Chancellor, Eastern University and former Director, IBA, University of Dhaka).

### Events:

#### BBS's Research Methodology Workshop

On Thursday, 08 January 2015, BBS organized a one-day workshop on 'Research Methodology'. This workshop was designed for the faculty members of BRACU and other recognized universities in Bangladesh. Dr. Mawdudur Rahman, Professor, Suffolk University, USA, and President, Knowledge Globalization Institutes and; Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor of BRACU, conducted the workshop. Mr. Mohammad Rezaur Razzak, Associate



Professor and Head of Operations, BBS, welcomed all the participants in the workshop and encouraged faculty members to actively participate in research and publications in this competitive era. Professor Andaleeb in his speech emphasized some key areas of globalization and strategies to take BRACU to the next level through research. He stated that if we would like to learn new approaches, to create a unique edge for the university, research involvement is mandatory. He further emphasized our chance to create a unique identity as well as develop our expertise in the relevant field by showcasing our innovative ideas to the world through research and thus earn recognition.

Professor Rahman was invited to conduct the morning session of the workshop. He led a valuable session on 'Qualitative Research Methodology'. After the lunch break, Professor Andaleeb conducted the second session on 'Hypothesis Testing'. There were one-to-one sessions and group discussions in the workshop. To conclude the workshop, he awarded 'Certificates of Participation' to the participants of the workshop.

#### **BRACU announced regional finalist for HULT PRIZE**

The grand finale of the HULT PRIZE Competition 2015 was held on 28 November 2015, at BRACU. From this competition, students, who will represent BRACU in the regional final, were selected. Team Synergy won against 4 other outstanding teams in the final round. Their idea was to create a self-sustaining community by dividing it into a network of hubs that will serve the community as a business centre. The first runner up was Team Uttolon. This team focused on creating employment opportunities for individuals who are struggling in urban crowded areas. The second runner up was Team Albatross. Their idea was to incorporate a system in the most crowded areas that would improve every family's standard of living. Professor Rahim B. Talukder, Advisor, BBS; Mr. Md. Fauzi-Bin-Farid, Director, Urban Development Directorate, Ministry of Housing and Public Works; Ms. Shahnaz Sultana, Senior Vice President and Country Manager,

Bangladesh Representative Office, Wells Fargo Bank N.A.; Engr. Natez Be-Nazir Ibn Minar, Managing Partner of Minar Corporation and Sponsor Director of The Barakah Limited; and Md. Adnan Hossain, Founder and Chairman of 'It's Humanity Foundation' served as the judges.

#### **Workshop organized on 'International Project Catalyst-USA 2015' (IPC)**

BBS hosted a fully funded training programme for social entrepreneurs entitled 'International Project Catalyst, USA-2015 (IPC)', on Monday, 13 July 2015 at BRACU GDLN Conference Room. The interactive session was designed to explore a unique opportunity to attend the IPC programme to be held in Seattle, Washington, USA, hosted by the US Department of State and sponsored by Jolkona Foundation of Seattle, USA.

#### **Seminar held on ITES Foundation Skills Training**

BRACU Business Club (BIZBEE) organized a seminar on ITES skill development in Bangladesh on 9 September 2015 at BRACU Auditorium. The key note speaker of the event was Mr. Kamal Mansharamani, Co-founder and Director, Workxmate Technologies. The session was chaired by Professor Rahim B. Talukder, Advisor, BBS. Mr. Sarker Abdul Kalam Azad, Joint Secretary, Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) was also present at the event. The seminar was organized specially to help students improve their IT knowledge.

#### **BBS Student participated at HPAIR 2015 in Manila**

The Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) 2015 was held in Manila, Philippines, from 20-24 August 2015. Maisha Zaman, a student from BBS, represented BRACU at that event. Professor Rahim B. Talukder, Advisor, BBS and Mr. Mohammad Rezaur Razzak, Associate Professor and Head of Operations, BBS were instrumental in supporting her at the event. There were 450 delegates from 50 countries around the world, among whom Maisha Zaman was the only one participating from Bangladesh. She talked about



her start-up, 'Sneho', for networking purposes, which is a successful project from HULT PRIZE 2015.

### **Session organized on citation tools**

'A session on citation tools' was organized by BBS for its Student Tutors (ST) and Teaching Assistants (TA) on 22 November 2015 at the BBS Conference Room. Mr. Saif Hossain, Senior Lecturer and Assistant Coordinator of BBA Programme, was the facilitator of the session. He talked about reference management tools and techniques and introduced the reference management software 'Zotero'.

### **EMBA Organized Residential Weekend Programme (Summer 2015)**

The EMBA residential weekend programme for the summer 2015 was held at BRAC-CDM, Rajendrapur on 12-13 June 2015. A total of 70 students from the EMBA programme participated in the event. The programme started with a brief overview of the two-day programme presented by Mr. Riyashad Ahmed, Assistant Professor and EMBA Coordinator, BBS.

On 12 June 2015, three interactive seminars were organized where the students participated in various discussion sessions conducted by distinguished speakers. The morning session was conducted by Mr. Tarek Abdullah Al Munim, Head of Brands, Grameenphone. He discussed different aspects of brands, marketing and advertising. The afternoon session started with a discussion by Mr. Habibur Rahman, CSCM, GM, Supply Chain, MARICO Bangladesh Limited; he discussed the best practices of supply chain management in corporate organizations and its competitive advantage in business. The day long programme ended with a session by Brigadier General M Mofizur Rahman, psc, P Eng (R), Former Executive Chairman BEPZA. General Rahman conducted an interactive session on Popular ISO Standards and their Implementation in Bangladesh. In the evening, a cultural programme and sports events were organized for the students. The next day, Mr. Abdur Rahman, former acting Head of Training and Learning, BRAC conducted a highly interactive session on the evolution and emergence of

BRAC. The programme was organized by Mr. Javed Rasel, DCO, EMBA programme under the direct supervision of Riyashad Ahmed, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, EMBA Programme and Dr. Mohammed Tareque Aziz, Associate Professor and Advisor, EMBA Programme.

### **BBS students experience in Model United Nations**

A four-day conference on Model United Nations (MUN) including the Gala Night was held from 1-4 October 2015 at the campus of Curtin University which is located in Borneo of Miri Sarawak, East Malaysia. The experience during the four-day conference was excellent for the students. The knowledge which emerged from the conference in the form of debates, intellectual arguments, taking of immediate stand points after each crisis and being able to come up with an agreeable resolution was truly a learning experience for the students. A number of awards were won by the students of BBS. The Best Delegate award was won by Isfaq Tasnim Susmita, Delegate of USA in the Human Rights Council; the Special Mention award was won by Karishma Mahfuz, Delegate of France in the Security Council and verbal mentions were made of Sadia Kamal, Delegate of Israel in the Security Council and Fariha Haider, Delegate of China in the Security Council. In addition to the delegate awards, a trophy was awarded to Sharif Tousif Mustafa for his diligent performance as the Chair of the Human Rights Council.

### **'Entrepreneurs' Field Trip organized In Fall 2015**

BBS organized 'Entrepreneurs' Field Trip-Fall 2015' to Tangail for the students of the course, Principles of Entrepreneurship on 27 November 2015. The team, which consisted of 52 people, was led by Ms. Nusrat Hafiz, Lecturer of BBS and Mr. Chandan Roy, Assistant DCO of BBS. It was a day-long tour. During the trip, the students were taken to visit the Mohera Jamidar Bari at Natiapara and Porabari. The Jamidar Bari, founded in 1890, is being used as a Police Training Centre. The students interviewed the respondents and explored the entrepreneurial spirit and discipline among the trainee police officers.



### **BRACU Team Vanilla participated in 'AD Maker Bangladesh 15' Competition**

Three students of BRACU, Raisa Samit Shams, Urmee Rahman Silvee and Nafees Faraz participated as a team named 'Vanilla' in the Inter University Marketing Competition 'AD Maker Bangladesh-15' which was sponsored by Elite Paint and presented by Robi and NSU YES. The competition began on 30 May 2015.

### **Programme held on Kaymu Campus Connect 2015**

A Kaymu Campus Connect 2015 was organized by BBS on 28 October 2015. 85 students participated in the internship test that was directed by Mr. Syed Mahmudur Rahman, Senior Lecturer, BBS and Ms. Sharzim Fatema, Head of Human Resources of Kaymu Bangladesh, along with 10 volunteers. Mr. Syed Mahmudur Rahman conducted the event throughout the day. As speakers, Mr. S. M. Arifuzzaman, Assistant Professor, BBS, was present on behalf of E-Commerce course. Mr. Quazi Zulquarnain, Deputy Country Manager, Kaymu Bangladesh; and Mr. Araf Habib, Brand Manager, Kaymu Bangladesh were present on behalf of Kaymu Bangladesh as speakers in the seminar.

### **Grooming session organized by CIMA and EMBA**

BBS and CIMA Bangladesh jointly organized a grooming session entitled 'Global Business Case Competition 2015' on 4 April 2015. The session was organized to discuss the overall marking system, case solving techniques, answer writing styles, etc. In the event, 17 teams comprising 68 students from BRACU registered for the case competition, and most of them participated in the grooming session. Besides, the students and CIMA officials, faculty from BBS i.e. Mr. Showvonick Datta, Mr. Saif Hossain, Mr. Riyashad Ahmed, and Mr. SM Arifuzzaman, and Mr. Rezaur Razzak, Associate Professor and Head of Operations, BBS, were also present in the discussion session. On 25 April 2015, BBS organized a second grooming and inspiring session for CIMA GBC registered students. The session ended with a question and answer session.

### **Club Activities:**

#### **BRACU Marketing Association (BUMA) organized Marvels**

It organized a program named Marvels (Once each semester: Spring 2015, Summer 2015 and Fall 2015) on networking. It took place in an informal ambiance. Ideas were shared in a round table discussion session. To bring BRACU current student body and BRACU Alumni closer, BUMA and BBS Alumni organized three successful sessions of Marvels.

'Corporate Maven 2015' was a real-life business case competition where the participants got the chance to share their brilliant business ideas. The competition was sponsored by BRAC Bank Ltd. The champion 'Team Vanilla' got 1st prize, the 1st runner up team was 'The Gen Y Marketers' and the 2nd runner up was 'Team Marvels'.

#### **BIZBEE Organized VISION**

A distinctive chapter of BRACU's accomplishment unfolded on 20 January 2015, through the inauguration of the business magazine VISION. This magazine was sponsored by BRACU Business Club (BIZBEE). The story was a write up entitled 'Tomorrow's Business with Today's Youth'. It included an interview with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, KCMG, Chairperson, BRAC and the Board of Trustees, BRACU, as the cover story. Publication of the VISION Magazine is one of many activities organized by BIZBEE. VISION has rich content relating to business activities in Bangladesh and the world. It provides opportunities for students to experience the world of business.

#### **Business and Economics Forum Organized 'Prize Giving Ceremony of Article Writing Competition 2015'**

The Business and Economics Forum (BEF) organized a prize giving ceremony for the article writing competition on 'Green Business: Agent of Change'. It was held in the BRACU conference room. The programme was sponsored by GRAM (Global Resource Augmentation and Management Ltd). The event was attended by Professor Rahim B. Talukdar, Advisor, BBS; Mr. Mohammad Rezaur Razzak, Associate



Professor and Head of Operations, BBS; two advisers of BEF; Mr. S. M. Arifuzzaman, Assistant Professor and Mr. Fairuz Chowdhury, Lecturer. Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Mr. Riyashad Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Mr. Showvonick Datta, Lecturer and Mr. Arifur Rahman Khan, Lecturer, Mr. Shamim Ahmed, President, BEF, and all other members of BEF were also present at the Programme.

### **Entrepreneurship Development Forum Organized 'Meet the Entrepreneurs'**

On 28 June 2015, the Entrepreneurship Development Forum arranged an event entitled 'Entrepreneurship speaks for our Young Generation', powered by Student Bd24.com and Better Bangladesh. Mr. Shourav Islam, CEO Unifox Digital Media, and Mr. Mushfiq M Hasan Managing Director of Texmart, were the main guest speakers and Professor Rahim B. Talukdar, Advisor, BBS with Mr. Rezaur Razzak, Associate Professor and Head of Operations, BBS were present on the occasion. The programme started with a one-minute silence in honor of the late Mr. Fazle Elahi Chowdhury, Advisor of the Entrepreneurship Development Forum. The programme started at 2 pm with a speech by Mr. Rezaur Razzak. Following that, Mr. Mushfiq M Hasan inspired students to make a leap for the future by embracing the fear of being an entrepreneur. He also described the current market situation and the possibilities of being a successful entrepreneur. He generated ideas about doing one's homework before jumping into the real field, and being an entrepreneur too. Students of BRACU asked questions about the future planning of entrepreneurial life. Professor Rahim B. Talukdar, handed over a token of gratitude to the guest speakers. Then he ended the programme with an inspirational speech for the entrepreneurs of the new generation. Students who participated were also given letters of participation.

### **Study Tour**

BBS organized a study tour to Sylhet for the students of Brand Management on 28 November 2015. Ms. Rahma Akhter, Lecturer, and Mr. Mostak Ahamed, Senior DCO, BBS accompanied the students. 32 students participated in the three-day tour. The team

stayed at BRAC Learning Center of Sylhet. Students were taken to visit Bichanakandi and the hills of Meghalaya on the first day. The second day's visit was to Lakkatura Tea Garden and Sylhet International Cricket Stadium. The students were provided with a questionnaire with which they conducted a survey. They needed to collect information from the respondents and find out the possibilities of destination branding of Sylhet. The students were very happy and felt enriched with the real life experience. The purpose of organizing such a tour is to make students aware of research procedures. It was an attempt to create a link between their theoretical knowledge and practical ways of doing things.

### **IABC organized Influx and Insight**

In 2015, International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Club of BBS organized 'Influx' - an assessment process to recruit new applicants, who signed up at the club fair. IABC held internal workshops every semester to enhance the skills of IABC members through Insight. IABC arranged sessions entitled 'SAYS-Towards a Transformative Career' to enhance networking and career building opportunities of students. On 13 June 2015, an annual dinner was organized for the members, the mentors of IABC and the sponsors who were associated with BUGMUN 2014. On 29 October 2015, IABC, in affiliation with Anwer Khan Modern Hospital, arranged a seminar to raise awareness about breast cancer. IABC organized an industrial tour to Omera Petroleum Ltd, Ghorashal Plant, to understand the real life applications of the industrial process.

### **Advisor, BBS**

Professor Rahim B. Talukdar, Ph.D. joined BBS as Advisor (with Dean's status) on 7 June 2015. Professor Talukdar had experience in academic and administrative sector for over four decades. He was the Vice Chancellor of Eastern University, Dhaka, from May 2006 to July 2010. He was also the Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (2003-2006) and Vice Chancellor, in-charge of Viqarunnissa University (2001-2003). He was Professor and Director of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka too.



## James P Grant School of Public Health

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James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) aims to transform the current system of health delivery through its commitment to contribute to high-quality education and research. Founded in 2004 as the public health wing under BRACU, the focus of JPGSPH is to provide access to education, research, training and advocacy through integration and innovation. The school uses a multidisciplinary and cutting-edge approach which places experts in the service of society, and train the next generation of global and national health leaders. This practical conversion of knowledge at JPGSPH is applicable in both local and global contexts.

JPGSPH aspires to become a worldwide leader in interdisciplinary global health education by promoting and providing public health, nutrition, midwifery and nursing education and training to harness knowledge and expertise in pursuit of health equity. At the same time, the School catalyses and conducts groundbreaking research based on contemporary global health issues, responding to the changing nature of infectious and viral diseases as well as influencing policy at both the national and global platform through advocacy and evidence sharing.

### **ACHIEVEMENT**

JPGSPH has warranted its capacity to undertake research and advocacy activities on an array of development issues. The school's research endeavours are significantly aided by

partnerships with over 70 national and international institutions and organisations, including BRACU, BRAC and icddr,b. Presently, the JPGSPH team is conducting 23 research studies, including research on health systems, equity, gender, service delivery, nutrition, and human rights. Some of its ongoing research projects include Reachout, Communication for Development, Go4Health, TB Mortality Research, Early Biomarker of Dengue, and Creating Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Momentum in Bangladesh: the Challenges and Opportunities, and Food Security and Nutrition Surveillance - NNS.

### **Academic Programmes**

- Master of Public Health (MPH)
- Continuing Education Programme (CEP)
- Diploma in Midwifery

### **Master of Public Health (MPH)**

The Master of Public Health (MPH) Programme, the flagship programme of JPGSPH at BRACU was launched in January 2005 with the objective of developing public health leaders. Based on community based experiential learning approach, the MPH Programme is a full-time one-year programme with courses designed to encourage a sequential pursuit of public health education and competencies. MPH is taught by leading academics in the field of public health from world renowned universities, including Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Stanford University, University of Berlin and University of Heidelberg. The courses are



divided into three blocks: the first block covers basic concepts of public health, including culture and human values, and anthropological approaches, public health qualitative and quantitative research including biostatistics and epidemiology and management of public health including health systems and health economics.

The second block covers topics in public health practice including epidemiology of infectious diseases, sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, public health communication, monitoring and evaluation and environment, health & climate change. The third block allows students to conduct research in groups under the supervision of mentors and supervisors on a chosen public health issue. This is termed Summative Learning Project (SLP).

### **Continuing Education Programme (CEP)**

The Continuing Education Programme (CEP) at JPGSPH has been instrumental in strengthening the health sector through reinforcement of new and innovative skills and knowledge. Since its establishment in 2007, about 5,000 health professionals from government and non-governmental organizations have received training through CEP, where they gain experience in sustainable learning and skills. The CEP offers around 12-15 short courses per year covering research, priority health development issues, leadership and management training and so forth. The CEP serves as a national and international training hub for professionals, researchers and advanced students by giving them the opportunity to exchange and share their experiences and knowledge on relevant topics to develop innovative solutions across the globe. Teaching at CEP is modeled on a problem-based approach and is designed to rely less on lectures and more on self-learning and sharing experiences. CEP organized 16 short courses on 13 different issues in 2015. Some courses were supported by external donors while others were organized in collaboration with different centres of icddr, b and JPGSPH.

### **Diploma in Midwifery Education Programme**

With a vision to improve maternal and neonatal health system in Bangladesh, the Developing Midwives Project (DMP) has implemented a three-year Diploma in Midwifery Education since

2013 under the Department of Midwifery and Nursing (DMN), BRACU. The University designed an innovative 'hub and spokes' model to support midwifery education in multiple hard-to-reach under-served areas of Bangladesh. The University serves as the "Hub" and the NGOs in hard-to-reach areas form the "Spokes". This is a full time, three-year long residential programme that follows a competency-based curriculum based on the standards of the International Confederation of Midwives and the Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council (BNMC).

Initially, teaching staff have been trained by midwifery experts from the Jhpiego (a Johns Hopkins affiliated organization) and the Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB). Students are recruited locally through a competitive BRACU admission process and are subject to university and global admission standards for midwifery education.

Decreasing maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity rates with quality MNH services through qualified midwives is the primary goal of this project. To achieve this goal, the project is developing a cadre of midwives who will live and practise at hard-to-reach under-served rural and urban areas of the country. This project is being implemented with financial support from the UK government.

### **Centre of Excellence**

The Centres of Excellence at the JPGSPH play a pivotal role in producing, applying and building knowledge and insight to address complex challenges which beset the global health sector. The three centres which are currently undertaking these projects are:

- The Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage
- Centre for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Centre for Urban Equity and Health

### **Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage**

To accelerate evidence-informed, equitable and sustainable action towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Bangladesh and globally, the Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage (CoE-UHC) was established in April 2011 with financial support from the Rockefeller



Foundation. This centre is based at JPGSPH and aims to generate essential evidence, develop core competencies and foster learning through advocacy work by a UHC Forum to facilitate its journey beyond 2015.

#### **Ongoing Projects:**

- Go4Health: Goals and Governance for global health
- A quick assessment of BRAC's Staff Insurance Scheme
- Assessment of BRAC Health Security Programme (BHSP)
- Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals Services (SIAPS) in Bangladesh
- Framework Convention on Global Health (FCGH)
- The emerging role of Private Sector Medical Assistants Training School: A situation assessment
- Assessment of rural retention policies for HRH in Bangladesh
- BRAC Healthcare Innovations Programme (B-HIP)
- Creating UHC momentum in Bangladesh: the challenges and opportunities
- Shocks to Health Systems in Emergencies and Disasters: Building Resilience of Health Systems in Crises (SHED)

#### **Centre for Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR)**

The Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (CGSRHR) is dedicated to research, policy, advocacy and training activities in the arena of gender, sexual and reproductive health and sexuality rights in Bangladesh and in the region. The centre promotes a broad-based understanding of many of these core issues, with a focus on rights for marginalised groups in Bangladesh and in the region. The centre endeavours to expand the frontiers of public health discourse and practice, and its vision is an empowered Bangladesh, where inequalities and inequities in gender, sexual and reproductive health, sexuality and sexual rights have been overcome. Reproductive and sexual health remains neglected in research, advocacy and implementation at the grassroot levels. The centre has undertaken several research and advocacy activities for

undergraduates, training journalists, academics and researchers on ethics and SRHR.

#### **Ongoing Projects:**

- Preference and willingness to pay for sanitary napkins among females living in Kaliakair, Gazipur (BRAC-SNDK)
- Cross-country analysis of success factors study for women and children's health
- Making WHO safe childbirth checklist work in Bangladesh - a study to identify ways for uptake and sustained use
- Developing technical vocational educational training (TVET), higher education (HE) and training on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the health and population sector in Bangladesh (Nuffic)
- REACHOUT: Reaching out and linking in: Health systems and close-to-community services
- Training needs assessment regarding gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights issues for frontline health workers (Family Welfare Assistants & Family Welfare Visitors) of Bangladesh
- Breaking the Shame
- Collaborative Evaluation of a New BRAC Initiative to Address Violence against Women and Children in Bangladesh
- Prevalence, characteristics, quality of life, and health seeking behaviours of women with maternal morbidities in a rural community of Bangladesh
- The Effect of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Intervention on Children's Holistic Development and Maternal Mental Health in Rural Bangladesh
- The impact of tuberculosis stigma on sexual and reproductive health of men and women in Bangladesh

#### **Centre for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH)**

Established in 2012, the Centre for Urban Equity and Health (CUEH) serves as a knowledge hub for urban health equity with a specific focus on the social determinants of health and health systems issues of governance, information, human resources and service delivery. Through collaborative activities and joint learning, CUEH galvanises evidence-informed decision making,



and supports partnerships and networking among government policy makers and public and private service providers, researchers and development partners. After three years of exploring the health challenges of the urban poor, and the current state of urban health policy and action, CUEH is now poised to sharpen its focus. As part of a leading national academic institution, CUEH will maintain a strong commitment to education, research, and advocacy, honouring its origins in the BRACU family. Over the last three years, CUEH built a research platform to critically assess the current context, challenges and opportunities around urban health governance and the delivery of equitable and responsive primary health care to slum populations in Bangladesh. The main focus of CUEH's work in education has been to develop competencies among public health and urban development professionals to address urban health challenges through research and action. Education efforts have targeted young and mid-level professionals and encouraged hands-on learning and problem-solving. One example is a short course on urban health governance which trained almost 60 mid-level professionals from the government, the NGO sector and academia.

#### **Ongoing Projects:**

- Clinical evaluation of dengue and identification of risk factors for severe disease in Bangladesh
- Prevalence of Eye Illness in Low-income Urban Communities in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Understanding demand and provision of eye care services among slum-dwellers in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Market surveys using a discrete choice experiment in Bangladesh
- Governance for Urban Health Equity: Mobilizing demand for primary health care among the urban poor in Bangladesh (IDRC)
- Cluster Randomized Trial for Comparing Different Provider Models of Screening Presbyopia in the Community: An Assessment of BRAC Reading Glass Project
- Assessing Seasonal Variation of Food Consumption and Intra Household Food Distribution in Selected Areas of Dhaka City: A Panel Study using Interactive 24 Hour Dietary Recall

## **ADVOCACY**

### **Share-Net Bangladesh**

Share-Net Bangladesh is a comprehensive digital knowledge platform focusing on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Bangladesh. Through a unique public-private-partnership with Red Orange Communications Ltd., a social communication agency, Share-Net Bangladesh is housed at the CGSRHR at JPGSPH. Share-Net Bangladesh is the first of three of national knowledge hubs supported by Share-Net International based in KIT, the Netherlands. Share-Net International and the country hubs aim to create greater space for national and global practitioners in SRHR to share their knowledge and experiences, and drive the SRHR agenda forward at the policy level.

In Bangladesh, Share-Net serves as an overarching knowledge network, bringing key practitioners, researchers, field officers, academics, and relevant stakeholders working in various fields of SRHR under one umbrella. Along with creating an online community of practitioners, Share-Net Bangladesh offers a range of digital services to its registered users, including access to e-library and tools and other resources on SRHR. Share-Net Bangladesh also serves as a space for members to organise dialogues around critical and emerging issues around sexuality, sexual health and education for adolescents, and child marriage.

### **Recognising Consent and Choice (RCC)**

Recognising Consent and Choice (RCC) is a project which has been designed to deliver short courses on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and the law; develop a compendium of resource materials on SRHR and the law; organise a workshop on 'writing stories'; advocacy and awareness activities in the form of expert consultations and dialogues at universities; documentary competition and organisation of a film exhibition to generate greater sensitisation; and discussions on the issues of consent and choice within the context of SRHR in Bangladesh. RCC is a joint initiative of the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and the CGSRHR at JPGSPH. This project is supported by RFSU, the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education.



JPGSPH is committed to advocacy and works closely with key stakeholders and partners in many of its activities. Some recent key highlights include:

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Malabika Sarker as Acting Dean

From 1 January to 31 December 2015, Professor Malabika Sarker, Director, Research was appointed as the Acting Dean. Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid, Dean of JPGSPH, was on sabbatical in 2015.

WHO TDR Postgraduate International Training Scheme on Implementation Research JPGSPH launched TDR Postgraduate International Training Scheme on Implementation Research for MPH Programme in 2015, with financial support from TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases at the World Health Organization. A four-year scheme, TDR Scheme provides full scholarships of up to ten students each year. The goal of this scheme is to enhance graduate training capacity and boost the number and quality of researchers in low and middle income countries.

Developing 21st Century Public Health Demand-Driven Curriculum: JPGSPH Curriculum Review

### Workshop 2015

In order to strengthen and identify new public health competencies, content and pedagogic approaches for MPH Programme, JPGSPH conducted a three-day curriculum review workshop in August 2015 with the participation of both national and international public health experts. The workshop stimulated discussion on the findings of a curriculum review undertaken by an internal review team from April to July 2015.

### JPGSPH celebrates 10 years of excellence in public health education

JPGSPH celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 2015. The celebrations commenced on 2 August at the main JPGSPH campus with Mohakhali with a cultural programme performed by current MPH students. The festivities continued with a formal reception held on 4 August, 2015 at BRAC Centre. Sir Fazle Hasan Abed (Founder & Chairperson, BRAC), Professor Syed Saad

Andaleeb (Vice Chancellor, BRACU) and Dr John Clemens, (Executive Director, icddr,b) shared the vision behind establishing JPGSPH, the School's contribution to public health education and research in Bangladesh and the future of public health education in Bangladesh.

## Publications

### Journal articles

1. PAUL, S., AKTER, R., AFTAB, A., KHAN, A.M., BARUA, M., ISLAM, S., ISLAM, A., HUSSAIN, A. & SARKER, M. (2015) Knowledge and attitude of key community members towards tuberculosis: mixed method study from BRAC TB control areas in Bangladesh. *BMC Public Health*. 15 (52). Available from: [tuberculosis.in](http://tuberculosis.in)

Workplaces: how knowledgeable are the workers in Bangladesh? *BMC Public Health*. 15 (1291).

Available from:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4690220/>

### Books

1. EL-SAHARTY, S., SPARKES, S.P., BARROY, H., AHSAN, K.Z. & AHMED, S.M. (2015) The path to universal health coverage: Bridging the gap of human resources for health. Washington DC: World Bank. Available from: [http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDS/IB/2015/05/26/090224b082ec4f3f/1\\_0/Rendered/PDF/The0path0to0un0resources0for0health.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDS/IB/2015/05/26/090224b082ec4f3f/1_0/Rendered/PDF/The0path0to0un0resources0for0health.pdf)

2. AHMED, S.M., ALAM, B.B., ANWAR, I., BEGUM, T., HUQUE, R., KHAN, J.A.M., NABABAN, H. & OSMAN, F.A. (2015) Bangladesh Health System Review. *Health System in Transition*. 5 (3). World Health Organization. Available from: [http://www.wpro.who.int/asia\\_pacific\\_observatory/hits/series/bgd\\_health\\_system\\_review.pdf](http://www.wpro.who.int/asia_pacific_observatory/hits/series/bgd_health_system_review.pdf)

### Book chapters

1. SELIM, N. (2015) Sufi body practices and therapeutic politics in Berlin. In: Klinkhammer, G. & Tolksdorf, E. (eds.) *Somatisation of Religions. Empirical Studies of the recent religious healing and therapy marketplace*. Bremen: University of Bremen. Available from: [http://www.researchgate.net/publication/273888655\\_Sufi\\_Body\\_Practices\\_and\\_Therapeutic\\_Politics\\_in\\_Berlin](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/273888655_Sufi_Body_Practices_and_Therapeutic_Politics_in_Berlin)

2. SELIM, N. (2015) Mental Health Care. In: AHMED, S.M., ALAM, B.B., ANWAR, I., BEGUM, T., HUQUE, R., KHAN, J.A.M., NABABAN, H. & OSMAN, F.A. Bangladesh Health System Review. 5 (3). World Health Organization. Available from: [http://www.wpro.who.int/asia\\_pacific\\_observatory/hits/series/bgd\\_health\\_system\\_review.pdf](http://www.wpro.who.int/asia_pacific_observatory/hits/series/bgd_health_system_review.pdf)

#### **Working paper**

1. BLOOM, G., WILKINSON, A., TOMSON, G., AWOR, P., ZHANG, X., AHMED, S.M., KHAN, W.A., BLESSING, V., WANG, L., LIANG X. & PETERSON, S. (2015) Addressing Resistance to Antibiotics In Pluralistic Health Systems. STEPS Working Paper 84. Brighton: STEPS Centre.

#### **Available from:**

<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/5034f626e4b09af678ebcd47/t/55312f10e4b0cb627abb0a89/1429286672509/AMR+wp.pdf>

#### **Report**

1. AHMED, S.M., ISLAM, K.F. & BHUIYA, A. (2015) Urban Health Scenario: Looking beyond 2015. Bangladesh Health Watch Report 2014. Bangladesh Health Watch. Dhaka: Bangladesh Health Watch, James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. Available from: [http://www.researchgate.net/publication/276921969\\_Bangladesh\\_Health\\_Watch\\_Report\\_2014\\_Urban\\_Health\\_Scenario\\_Looking\\_beyond\\_2015](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/276921969_Bangladesh_Health_Watch_Report_2014_Urban_Health_Scenario_Looking_beyond_2015)

#### **Academic blog article**

1. SELIM, N. (2015) Healing the City: Sufi Prayers in Berlin's Towers. In: *Medizinethnologie. Körper, Gesundheit und Heilung in einer globalisierten Welt*. May edition.

Available from: <http://www.medizinethnologie.net/?p=391>



## School of Law

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Founded in 2004, the School of Law (SoL) at BRACU is a gateway through which students are prepared for careers in law, administrative services, the judiciary and in the development sector. The four-year undergraduate programme at the SoL culminates in a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree for successful students. Although the primary emphasis of the programme is on law and the legal profession, given that Law is also intertwined with economics, development, business and sociology, it also prepares students who are inclined to seek professions in other disciplines.

The faculty of the SoL is handpicked for academic excellence and individual expertise. The members bring with them teaching-learning experiences from Universities in Europe, Australia and Asia. The faculty has individual expertise in the areas of child rights, criminal law, gender studies, business laws, international trade laws and human rights; all of which are shared with the students in course work and in workshops and lecture programmes organised by the School.

Recognising BRAC's background and the goals and commitments of BRACU, the SoL endeavors to impart legal education to seek legal solutions that respect the social, cultural and aesthetic needs of the people. To meet this goal, it strives to impart to its students not only the tenets of the law, but also legal philosophy, rights-based issues and a broader awareness of the society they live in. Graduates from the SoL are now pursuing careers as lawyers, judges, corporate legal officers, development workers and academics.

In 2004, the SoL started its journey with six students. In the year 2015, the School had over 450 students. The following paragraphs give a brief description of the activities of faculty and students of the SoL, BRACU, for 2015.

In 2015, the SoL went through some changes, bidding farewell to the Dean, Dr. Shahdeen Malik, and the former Head of Undergraduate Studies. Professor K. Shamsuddin Mahmood became the new Dean. Two members of the faculty, Ms. Atia Naznin and Ms. Tanjina Sharmin, left to pursue their Ph.D. degrees in Australia; and Dr. Tureen Afroz, left at the end of the year in order to join as a member of the Law faculty at East West University.

### ***1. Conferences/Seminars/Talks/Workshops (chaired or papers presented)***

Dr. Saira Rahman Khan, Professor, SoL presented a paper entitled Torture in Bangladesh: Present Circumstances and Legal Provisions at the Experts Meeting on Torture, hosted by the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (KONTRAS), Bali, Indonesia. 15 - 17 December 2015.

Dr. Md. Rizwanul Islam, Associate Professor, SoL presented a paper on The Perils of Plagiarism and Needs for Adequate Attribution in Legal Research Works, at the Introductory Workshop on Legal Writing and Research Methodology, jointly organized by Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) and SoL, BRACU, at BILIA Auditorium, Dhaka, 9 May 2015

Ms. Tania Sultana Lipi, lecturer, SoL participated in a Training of Trainers (TOT) arranged by South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and Human Rights (SAILS) on the issues of Capacity Building for Paralegal from June 27 to July 3 of 2015.

### ***2. Research and Publications***

Dr. Saira Rahman Khan carried out the following research activities

- Coordination of a student research project on 'Violence against Women in Bangladesh: would



a separate treaty on VAW Help?' as part of the academic initiatives taken by the Carr Centre, Harvard University. Seventeen universities took part in this country-specific research. April-May 2015.

- Khan, S.R. (2015). The Link between Corruption and Torture: A Study on the Involvement of Law Enforcement Agencies in Bangladesh. (Unpublished) Dignity International, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Dr. Md. Rizwanul Islam published the following research paper:

- Islam, M. R., & Muqium, N. (2015). The Scope for Trade Restrictions to Address the Lack of Compliance with Fire Safety Standards in Garment Factories of Bangladesh. *Journal of World Trade*, 49, 153-172.

### 3. Op-Eds and Columns

Op-Eds by Dr. Saira Rahman Khan:

- Violence, Sexual Harassment and Law, *The New Age* (Dhaka, Bangladesh) 25 November 2015.
- Terror of Harassment and Lack of Respect, *The New Age* (Dhaka, Bangladesh) 27 May 2015.
- How to Kill a Pro-people Law, *The New Age* (Dhaka, Bangladesh) 26 March 2015.

Op-Eds and columns by Dr. Md. Rizwanul Islam:

- Policy for Domestic Workers - Welcome Beginning to A Long Journey, *The Daily Star* (Dhaka, Bangladesh), 30 December 2015.
- Stretching the Boundaries of HR, *The Daily Star* (Dhaka, Bangladesh), 8 December 2015, (Weekly Law & Our Rights Page, Special Supplement on World Human Rights Day 2015).
- A Discouraging Message to South Asian Exporters, *The Daily Star* (Dhaka, Bangladesh), 29 October 2015
- Postponement of Australian Cricket Team's Tour: Perplexing Choice about Security, *The Daily Star* (Dhaka, Bangladesh), 3 October 2015.
- Giving the Noble Profession Its Due, *The Daily Star* (Dhaka, Bangladesh), 1 October 2015.
- Wither BIMSTEC FTA, *The Daily Star* (Dhaka, Bangladesh), 5 September 2015
- A Unique Source of Law (!): Laws by Conscience, *The Daily Star* (Dhaka, Bangladesh), 29 August 2015.
- Elusive Regaining of GSP Benefits in the USA, *The Daily Star* (Dhaka, Bangladesh), 13

August 2015.

- Banning Three Wheelers On Highways: How Not To Implement A Policy, *The Daily Star* (Dhaka, Bangladesh), 5 August 2015.
- Dim the Destination Allure for Boat People, *The Straits Times* (Singapore) 12 June 2015
- Seeking to Set aside a Decree's Outcome, *The Daily Star* (Dhaka, Bangladesh), 24 March 2015 (Weekly Law & Our Rights Page).
- Privatising Government Owned Enterprises, *The Daily Star* (Dhaka, Bangladesh), 10 March 2015, (24th anniversary issue, segment 1).
- Quest for Transparency on Treaties, *The Daily Star* (Dhaka, Bangladesh), 15 February 2015.
- Leave the Undergrad Admission Tests to Academics, *The Daily Star* (Dhaka, Bangladesh), 3 January 2015.

### 4. Contribution to the University and the Department

#### A. Programmes

Every semester, the SoL organises a Semester Inaugural Lecture, where lawyers, judges and social workers are invited to give talks on various topics - including their experience as Law students. In Fall 2015, Ms. Chaumtoli Huq, an Attorney and a Lecturer at the New York Law School was the guest speaker. She talked about her experiences as a law student, the work she does on labor rights of migrant workers and her research work on the legal compliance issues in garment manufacturing factories in Bangladesh. The lecture was organised by Dr. Saira Rahman Khan for the SoL.

On 30 November 2015, Professor Muhammad Rafiqul Islam, a distinguished legal scholar, visited BRACU. Professor Islam is a Professor of Law and the Director of Law Higher Degree Research at Macquarie Law School. He has been an avid legal academic and researcher and has published extensively in Public International Law and International Trade. During his visit, Professor Islam was engaged in several round table discussions with faculty members of the SoL and academic leaders of BRACU. He also delivered a comprehensive lecture entitled "Research and writing skill enhancement for publications: New Frontiers of International Law Research" to the students of the Law School, at the GDLN Conference room in BRACU. In his lecture, Professor Islam focused on contemporary international legal issues, including basic principles and the contemporary challenges in the field of International Law; human rights violations such as the torture faced in Guantanamo Bay and



Abu Ghraib jail; environmental protection issues and climate change; as well as sustainable development and the present status of International Environmental Law. Professor K Shamsuddin Mahmood, Dean, SoL, BRACU and other faculty members were also present. Dr. Md. Rizwanul Islam, Associate Professor, SoL coordinated the programme.

### **B. Faculty Activities**

In December 2015, Dr. Saira Rahman Khan and Ms. Sajeda Farisa Kabir, Programme Head of the Human Rights and Legal Services (HRLS) Programme of BRAC, met to discuss possible ways to develop links between the SoL and the HRLS and share activities. A draft MoU was submitted to the HRLS from the Law School and there will be further developments in 2016. Dr. Md. Rizwanul Islam has been responsible for finalizing the draft syllabus for an LL.M. Programme at the SoL, to be completed by early 2016. All faculty members of the Law School contributed to this syllabus.

### **5. Activities of Department Clubs**

#### **Activities of Moot Court Society**

The Moot Court Society was founded in Fall 2009. Its Adviser is Dr. Tureen Afroz, Associate Professor and its Co-adviser is Dr. Md. Rizwanul Islam, Associate Professor. The Moot Court teams have won various accolades in the past, including the national championship status for the Henry Dunant Regional Moot Court Competition. The MCS has also carried out research work into the Constitution and field work to determine the rights of ethnic minority populations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

- In 2015, the Mooting team participated in the 13th Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot, 2015, an Inter-University Competition for the Asia-Pacific Region. It took place in Hong Kong.

#### **Activities of the BRACU Law Club (BULC)**

The BULC was founded in Fall 2009. Its adviser is Dr. Saira Rahman Khan, Professor, SoL. The BULC was founded on the basis that everyone should be aware of the law and their rights and that students of Law should also be social activists. BULC members have volunteered in human rights organisations, taken part in awareness-raising initiatives and still carry out research for short reports in the awareness-raising

news letter 'Acumen', which is published every month and distributed throughout the University. Activities such as school visits on the issue of 'rights' and 'child rights', lecture programmes and local level informal discussions not only fulfill the objectives of the BULC, but also encourage the members to learn how to utilize their knowledge of law; expand their knowledge base and hone their oratory, organisation and research skills. The following activities were carried out by the BULC in 2015:

- It published 10 issues of their monthly Newsletter, "Acumen". With the aim of creating awareness and generating an interest in social and legal issues among the students of BRACU, the members of the BULC took up this task.
- Students of the Law Club attended the BBC Bangladesh Shanglap of 09 May 2015 as members of the participatory audience.
- A study tour was organised by BULC at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. The study tour is a practical experience for law students to understand court room proceedings and the ways of the court and the lawyers. This practical learning experience is enhancing their theoretical studies. The Law Club organises such a study tour every year for students completing a certain number of credits and courses. Study tours are also made to District and Session Courts.
- The BULC cricket team, the 'Legal Eagles', won the Independence Cup at the Independence Cup Tournament organized by BRACU Cricket Club.
- On 27 March 2015, the Law Club organised the screening of the documentary 'The War Crimes Files' for students of the Law School.
- BULC arranged a programme entitled 'Sexual Harassment and Rights of Women in Public Places' on 19 May 2015 at the BRACU Auditorium. The main speakers at the event were Fahima Nasrin, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh and member of Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association; Professor Ferdous Azim, Chairperson, Department of English and Humanities, BRACU and Samia Islam, Programme Officer, Odhikar. The event was hosted jointly by the SoL, BRACU and BULC.





Inspiring Excellence





Inspiring Excellence

## **DEPARTMENTS**

Department of Architecture (ARC)  
Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)  
Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS)  
Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE)  
Department of English and Humanities (ENH)  
Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS)  
Department of Pharmacy (PHR)



## Department of Architecture



The Department of Architecture (ARC) started its journey in the semester of Spring 2002 with 15 students and 3 faculty members. However, over the years, it has grown and currently has 340 students and 20 full-time qualified faculty. The department offers a 201 credit undergraduate degree in architecture. A total of 212 students have graduated through its five-year degree programme to date.

The aim of the Department is to ensure high quality education. The size of the student intake is limited to 25-30 per semester. The admission process is competitive. In a short span of time, the department has earned a reputation for high quality architectural education with the help of teachers of exceptional academic and professional background. The design studios, a vital part of the curriculum are taught by two to three teachers. Thus, an excellent 1:10 teacher-student ratio is maintained. The external faculty who are highly qualified and renowned in their respective fields teach design studios and courses on various architecture-related subjects, such as painting, photography, sculpture and music appreciation.

The academic atmosphere is characterized by rich co-curricular activities and a lively cultural life. It includes the "Angan" lecture series, "Arch. KIDS"

outreach programme for children and the student cultural forum "Moitree". Two prestigious awards 'Noman Award' and 'Rafiq Azam Travel Bursary (RATB)' have been introduced to acknowledge the students' best performance in the design studio. The department also organizes exhibitions of the students' 'work and design charrettes'. The above develop inter-university communication and further the interest of the students to strive for excellence. Practical training is a part of the curriculum. Students are required to complete a semester of professional training in architectural offices. The training is transboundary in nature. Alongside Bangladesh, the students also undergo this training in India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and the United States of America. The department enjoys the privilege of student and staff exchange with several European Universities under EMMAAsia (Erasmus Mundus Mobility with Asia) and with the School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Chicago.

### Highlights of the Department, 2015

Total students	340
Total full-time faculty	20
Students passing out	212
Awards received	04
Exhibitions	02



Participation in conferences, workshops, public lectures and short courses	08
Study tours	07
Publications	04
Number of students completed Internships	28

### **Innovations and New Ideas implemented**

39 regular activities of the department have been identified and six committees have been reformed: monitoring, architectural studies cell, archiving studio works, curriculum and syllabus standardization (undergraduate and postgraduate), and an event committee. These committees started their activities and identified their scope and opportunities, thus contributing to the growth of the department.

The undergraduate course curriculum have been re-examined and redesigned to cope with present architectural trends. The proposed minimum credit requirement is 190, which was 200+ before, having been approved by the BoT of BRACU and awaiting approval from the University Grants Commission. Redesigned courses and less credit requirement will directly contribute to students' quality education and economy.

Level 13 and 14 have been redesigned to facilitate faculty and students. At level 13, a multipurpose space has been cut out and redesigned to provide space for juries, exhibitions, public lectures and student discussions. The redesigned departmental floor at 14 is now providing better faculty-student interaction and a dedicated space for departmental faculty meetings.

Among new initiatives implemented for faculty development, a faculty development workshop series has been initiated to address challenges in the studios and classes. Session 1 was held on brainstorming for good practices in the design studio to find out how faculty can improve their teaching skills.

### **Professor Shaheda Rahman joins Department of Architecture**

Professor Shaheda Rahman joined BRACU as the Chairperson of the Department of Architecture on 01 September 2015. Professor Rahman joined the Architecture Department of BUET as a Lecturer in 1976, her tenure ending in June 2015. During the span of nearly forty years she had the privilege of becoming a selection grade Professor, Head of the Department, Dean of the Faculty and for a brief period served as the Vice Chancellor.

Professor Shaheda Rahman worked with different government agencies and professional bodies including Ministry of Health, National Institute of Social Medicine, UNESCO and Aga Khan Trust. She is a member of Accreditation Board, IAB, and was an EC member of Institute of Architects. She wrote on issues of architectural conservation in Bangladesh and on planning and design issues of health care facilities in Bangladesh.

### **Awards received in 2015**

#### **Second cycle of the 'Noman Award for Excellence in Design' (NAED) 2014**

ARC, BRACU celebrated the second cycle of the 'Noman Award for Excellence in Design' (NAED) 2014 on 20 February 2015. Through this event the department selected the best design from the graduating batch of 2014. The award giving ceremony was followed by an exhibition of shortlisted projects. Pro-Vice Chancellor and Chairperson Professor Fuad H. Mallick and Khaled Noman AIA (American Institute of Architects) graced the occasion along with eminent architects, Mohammad Foyez Ullah and Mahmudul Anwar Riyaad, respected jurors of NAED 2014 cycle. President of Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), Abu Sayeed M Ahmed, Chief Architect Kazi Golam Nasir and, Deputy Chief Architect Shahadat Hossain of Ministry of Housing and Public Works were also present at the event.

Eight projects were selected from two final year studios completed in 2014. Nominated students were Aleya Farah Sinthee, Mushda Ali, Amlin Iqbal Eshita, Asad Hossen, Bidoura Mosharraf, Farzana Afroz, Safa Binte Safiullah and Farasha Zaman. A jury panel containing eminent architects reviewed and selected the winning project by Safa Binte Safiullah. They also selected two more projects for jury commendation by Bidoura Mosharraf and Farasha Zaman. Professor Fuad H. Mallick, Mohammad Foyez Ullah and Mahmudul Anwar Riyaad were members of the Jury Panel.

#### **Graduates win the prestigious gold medal ARCASIA awards for architecture (AAA2015)**

Ex-students of the Department of Architecture, Shareq Rauf Chowdhury, Nur-e-Dipha Shamima Muttaqi and Muhammad Iftekhhar-UL-Haque won the prestigious ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2015 for their project "Rishipara Mandir



Paathshaala" under Category E: Socially Responsible Architecture. The Awards Ceremony was held in Ayutthaya, Thailand at the 36<sup>th</sup> ARCASIA Council Meeting and 18<sup>th</sup> ARCASIA Forum. The project beat 237 other entries from 19 other ARCASIA member countries, and is one of the 3 projects to have won this prestigious award.

#### **Graduate won the "Berger Award for Excellence in Architecture"**

Nazmul Nayeem, a BRACU graduate, won the "7<sup>th</sup> Berger Award for Excellence in Architecture" under the category of 'others' for his project Peda Ting Ting. The restaurant situated in Road 26, Gulshan-1 adopts the approach of a vernacular architecture, promoting contextualization, use of environment friendly materials and more.

Berger Award for Excellence in Architecture is one of the most prestigious awards in the field of architecture in Bangladesh. The jury board constituted of prominent architects from Bangladesh: Kazi Khaled Ashraf, Khan Md. Mustapha Khalid, Mohammad Emran Hossain, and Palinda Kannangara from Sri Lanka, chaired by Mubassar Hussain.

#### **Certificate Giving Ceremony and Presentation by the Winner of Rafiq Azam Travel Bursary, 2014**

Kazi Najeeb Hasan, a fourth year student of ARC from BRACU, was awarded the Rafiq Azam Travel Bursary, 2014. The travel grant is given out each year to a student from the Department of Architecture to visit other countries for cross cultural learning. This year, Najeeb travelled to Sri Lanka on a 9-day visit. He also attended 2015's Annual Conference of the Sri Lankan Institute of Architects.

An event to award the certificate to Najeeb was held on 21 May 2015 where Najeeb shared his experience with faculty members and students. Chairperson, Department of Architecture and Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Fuad H. Mallick, Mr. Rafiq Azam, Mr. Mustasim M. Khan and renowned artist Professor Hamiduzzaman Khan were present at the event along with faculty and students of ARC, BRACU.

#### **Exhibition by ARC**

##### **ARC 402 Design VIII studio works**

Students of ARC 402 Design VIII, exhibited their studio works of fall 2015 from 13-15 December

2015. The studio works were based on a low income community in Jhenaidah city. The works encompassed the study of the community, the design of the neighborhood and individual housing designs.

#### **Chronicles of a Proud Bangladeshi**

Students of ARC 101: Design Studio-I showcased their talents through an exhibition of sketches on the theme of 'Chronicles of a Proud Bangladeshi' at the department premises. They prepared around 1500 sketches in two weeks for this occasion. The studio was guided by Shams Mansoor Ghani, Tanjina Khan and Ehsanul Alam. The week-long exhibition was inaugurated on 01 November 2015 by Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor, BRACU, Professor Shaheda Rahman, Chairperson, and all other faculty members and students of ARC, BRACU attended the event.

#### **Angan Lecture**

##### **Dwelling in the Desert: by Professor Zainab Faruqui Ali, Ph.D., University of Dammam**

Professor Zainab Faruqui Ali, University of Dammam, presented an Angan Lecture on 31 January 2015. Her lecture topic was on "Dwelling in the Desert". Professor Ali shared her experiences and findings about the local architecture in different regions of Saudi Arabia especially mud structures, the landscape and Arabic music and poetry.

#### **Architecture of Responsibility: by Kashef Mahboob Chowdhury**

Kashef Mahboob Chowdhury, Principal Architect of 'URBANA', delivered an 'Angan Lecture' on 15 October 2015. He presented his professional works which have been nationally and internationally awarded by the architecture community under the title 'An Architecture of Responsibility'.

#### **Conference, Workshop, Presentations and Public Lectures**

##### **Students participated in the Young Leaders Dialogue (YLD) at the National University of Singapore**

Three students attended the Young Leaders Dialogue (YLD) event at the National University of Singapore (NUS) from 18-19 September 2015.



The YLD is a track organized under the broad umbrella of Ecosperity 2015, a global forum on 'Urbanisation: Developing Cities for a Sustainable Future'.

### **Students' engagement with low-income urban communities through Design Studios**

As a part of the course ARC 402: Design Studio VIII, students and faculty members visited low-income communities in Jhenidah town, from 10-13 September 2015. Dr. Mohammad Faruk, Khondaker Hasibul Kabir and Cyrus Sohrab Khan facilitated the study visit as course teachers. The students emphasized their study on understanding housing needs and lifestyles. In the process, they deeply engaged with community inhabitants, and thus deepened their understanding of dynamic social and demographic context of such a low-income community.

### **A Special Lecture by Gary Hack: Disruptive Change and the Pattern of Cities**

Eminent urban design practitioner and educationist in North America, Gary Hack, presented a special public lecture on 9 September 2015 at BRAC Centre, Mohakhali.

Gary Hack is the former Dean and Professor of urban design in the School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania, USA. Professor Shaheda Rahman, Chairperson and Adjunct Professor Kazi Khaleed Ashraf introduced Gary Hack to the audience.

### **Teachers attended Forum with Educators and Gary Hack at Bengal Institute**

Mohammad Habib Reza Ph.D., and Nandini Awal Ph.D., attended a forum with Gary Hack entitled "Design Education and Leadership" at Bengal Institute of Landscape, Architecture & Settlements on 8 September 2015. The forum focused on the current status of architectural education and practice around the world.

### **Faculty presented at 'Mongolbarer Shabha', a Forum for Architecture**

Saiqa Iqbal Meghna presented her design of the e-Library for faculty of Business Studies of Dhaka University and to the Mongolbarer Shabha, a forum for architecture on 1 September 2015.

She, along with her team, designed the e-library. This research-based design approach included

implications of her ongoing research on contextual interpretation of complex geometries in public spaces.

### **Participation in ACHR meeting and APUF conference in Indonesia**

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir was invited by ACHR (Asian Coalition for Housing Rights) to participate in the regional meeting (16-18 October 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia) on the progress of city-wide community upgrading process. He spoke about Jhenidah where the Department of Architecture, POCAA (Platform of Community Action and Architecture), local NGO and local authorities are working with communities. Kabir also attended United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific as a speaker in the plenary session in APUF (Asia Pacific Urban Forum) conference (19-21 October 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia).

### **Participation in a short course at the University of Evora, Portugal**

Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana participated in a short course on concepts and methods in spatial conservation prioritization at the University of Evora, Portugal. The 6-day long programme starting on 28 September 2015, focussed on giving an integrative overview of Marxan, Zonation, Multy Link and iC4 software.

### **Participation in a Workshop**

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir participated in the 3rd Regional Workshop of Community Architects Network. The workshop was organized by CAN (Community Architects Network) in Manila and Muntinlupa, Philippines, from 15-25 June 2015.

### **Study Tour**

#### **Landscape Design studio ARC 412 visited National Botanical Garden of Bangladesh**

Students from the Landscape Design studio, ARC 412, visited National Botanical Garden of Bangladesh located at Mirpur, Dhaka. Studio instructors Khondaker Hasibul Kabir and Nandini Awal were with the team.

#### **Visit to Architect Bashirul Haq's Buildings**

Students from the studio course ARC 201 visited some contemporary buildings designed by



eminent architect Bashirul Haq. The buildings are Chayanot (the architect's own residence), Dhanshiri apartment and Kalindi apartment. Studio instructors Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana and Dr. Nandini Awal were also with the team.

### **Design Studio ARC 101 (Fall 2015) visited Two Iconic Architectural Icons of Dhaka**

The students of Design Studio 101 visited two great architectural icons of Bangladesh: the Curzon Hall and the Fine Arts Institute (Charukola). The studio instructors Shams Mansoor Ghani, Tanjina Khan and Ehsanul Alam were with them.

### **Students visited 'The Cube House'**

Students from the studio course ARC 301 visited 'The Cube House', an award winning residence designed by eminent architects BKS Inan and Sayeda Sultana of CAD Ltd. Saiqa Iqbal Meghna, Emil Theodore Halder and Cyrus S. Khan also visited the house with them.

### **Students of ARC 401 Design VII visited Barisal**

Design studio ARC 401 made a 5-day long field visit to Barisal. The team surveyed important urban areas in Barisal and prepared a report, while meeting several important city officials. They carried out documentation in the form of drawing, written texts and photographs.

### **Students visited artist Sheikh Afzal Hossain's studio**

Students of ARC 292 visited the home-studio of Sheikh Afzal Hossain, renowned painter on 17 November 2015. Mr. Afzal Hossain is a regular visiting faculty at ARC.

### **Study tour ARC 327 (Fall 2015): Bengal Tour**

The 'North Bengal tour' of ARC 327 took place from 19-21 December 2015. Assignment, documentation, lectures and preliminary identification process of historical building related to ARC 327 History of Art & Architecture of Bengal were carried out in this tour. Mohammad Habib Reza guided the tour.

### **Other Events**

#### **Open House**

To get a better understanding of how architecture

is learned, guardians of the freshman students were invited to have an open discussion with teachers on 3 November 2015. The event was conducted by Shams Mansoor Ghani, Tanjina Khan and Ehsanul Alam.

### **"Meet the Chairperson", ARC**

A warm welcoming event entitled "Meet the Chairperson" was organized by the department to introduce the newly joined Chairperson to the students on 20 September 2015.

### **Faculty Rejoined**

Huraera Jabeen rejoined after completing her Ph.D. and post-doctoral studies. She studied at the University of Manchester, UK, for her doctoral degree in International Development and Policy Management with a specialization in the built environment, climate change and gender. Following her studies she received the Bixby Fellowship to work as Post-doctoral Research Fellow in the Population Council, New York, USA. She has been promoted to Assistant Professor since returning.

### **Critiques of the Design Studios**

Final critiques of the design works of freshmen to final year were held this semester from 9-13 April 2015. Bashirul Haq, Jalal Ahmed, Uttam Kumar Shaha, Timmy Aziz, Ehsan Khan and Naim Ahmed Kibria were present as guest critics in different sessions.

### **List of Publications**

Reza, Mohammad Habib & Bandyopadhyay, Soumyen & Mowla, Azizul (2015) Traces of Buddhist Architecture in Gupta and post-Gupta Bengal: Evidence from Inscriptions and Literature. *Journal of Eurasian studies*, VII (3), 9-19

Awal, Nandini & Kitahara, Reiko (2015) Bangladesh: Environment, Society & Culture of Slum in Dhaka. *COMMUNITIES IN ASIAN - AFRICAN CITIES: Logic and Practices of Bottom-up Empowerment in Informal Communities* (pp. 101-122). Tokyo, Japan: Gakugei Shuppansha

Ahmed, Badruzzahan (2015) City of Gold. Ice Today. Retrieved from <http://icetoday.net/2015/07/city-of-gold/>



## Department of Computer Science and Engineering

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The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) is deeply committed to BRACU's tradition of excellence and leadership in engineering education and research. The department operates under the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS), and is driven by the dual goals of offering a world-class, broad-based undergraduate programme and a strong research culture focused on our faculty members and graduate students. The CSE department has the distinction of being one of the first departments to be launched in Spring 2001, when BRACU officially began its journey.

Since its inception, the CSE department has taken great strides toward achieving international standards. At present, the department offers the following academic programmes:

- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (B.Sc. in CS)
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering (B.Sc. in CSE)
- Master in Computer Applications (MCA)
- Master of Science in Computer Science and Engineering (M.Sc. in CSE)

- Master of Engineering in Computer Science and Engineering (M.Engg. in CSE)

Apart from these academic programmes, faculty are leading major research projects, such as Image Processing, Cloud Computing, Robotics, Bio-Informatics and Machine Learning. Several professionals from industry also serve as visiting faculty members, teaching classes where their real life experiences allow greater depth of learning for students. The present Chairperson, Professor Md. Haider Ali, Ph.D., serves on several important national committees. Professor Khalilur Rahman, Ph.D., one of the most prominent researchers in Robotics in the department and in the country led the Robotics lab and completed several major projects successfully.

The CSE takes pride in upholding BRACU values in providing the best quality teaching and mentoring services. All full-time faculty members maintain regular office hours, and all freshman level courses provide tutorial sessions for students to get a better understanding of the contents. High-performing students in their junior and senior years are employed as Student Tutors, who provide students



with additional resources, and enhance their academic knowledge and experience.

Faculty advisors are paired with undergraduate students in order to monitor their performance and counsel them to overcome their unsatisfactory performance. The Office of Student Affairs provides substantial assistance in helping the Department achieve these goals.

The Department provides seminars, workshops and tutorial sessions on advanced material like app development, graphics and animation, and competitive programming. Tutorials are held in the evenings and at weekends. Some faculty also provide additional classes for interested students, where they cover a variety of programming languages and other useful subjects.

The Department encourages students to get involved in diverse ongoing research projects. The research culture within the department is on the rise and promises great dividends in the near future. Faculty are also serving in advisory capacities in prestigious organizations like Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), and Bangladesh Open Source Network (BDOSN).

### Highlights of 2015

In May 2015, an international research collaboration agreement was signed between BRACU and the Digital Whale Resource Research Center, University of Ulsan, Korea. Terms of the collaboration include joint research activities, exchange of students, professors, and staff, sharing research facilities, and joint supervision of thesis projects. The collaboration will be financed by a grant from the National Research Foundation of Korea.

In June 2015, BRACU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ernst and Young (EY). EY will run a series of training sessions known as "Top Up IT Training", on behalf of the ICT Division, Ministry of Post, Telecommunications and Information Technology and the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC). This will let BRACU students receive industry-oriented training in addition to their regular curriculum. Participating students will also be provided with certification, both from the government and from an internationally recognized software developer certification programme. Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor and Professor Md. Haider Ali,

Chairperson, CSE were present at the signing ceremony. EY was represented by Kamal Mansharamani and Md. Rezaul Karim represented BCC.

In November 2015, a paper entitled "Cooperative Game Theory Based Load Balancing in a Long Term Evolution Network" was presented at the International Conference on Computer and Information Engineering, by Dr. Muhidul Islam Khan, Assistant Professor, CSE, along with students, Subarno Saha and Rajkin Hossain. The paper was awarded the best paper in that conference. In the same week, BRACU students Argha Kamal Roy, Junayed Hasan and Shahed Sattar secured the winning position in the IP Vision Shahjalal University of Science and Technology 5<sup>th</sup> CSE Carnival Software Hackathon. They competed with 22 other universities. The CSE Carnival also had a programming contest, where one BRACU team secured the 22<sup>nd</sup> position and another ranked in the top 50. Nearly 120 teams had participated in the contest. The contesting teams consisted of Ahmed Rafiq Ullah, Sourajit Saha, Md. Maqsood Al Anwar, Tarango Khan, Samin Arefin, and Wasif Arman Haque.

From 26-28 December 2015, the BRACU Robotics Club attended Techfest in IIT Bombay, India. Techfest is Asia's largest science and tech festival, with participants from over 3000 universities from all over the world. Industry leaders and corporate executives also attended the event.

The Robotics Club showcased several of their past and current projects at Techfest. The visiting team consisted of students Masnur Rahman, Imtiaz Kalam Abir, Mohammad Tahmid Rashid, Mohammad Shadman Sakib Chowdhury, Syed Mahmud Hasan, Mohammad Zahirul Islam, and Ali Hasan. They were led by Professor Md. Khalilur Rahman.

### Other Major Events of 2015

CSE was involved in finding placement and development opportunities for alumni. With this objective in mind, Dr. Jia Uddin Ahmed, Assistant Professor, CSE, helped two alumni to get fully funded Ph.D. and M.Sc. admissions at the International Islamic University of Malaysia under Dr. S.M.A Motakabber. The students are Ahmed Al Anim and Al Shahriar Hossain Rakib. Dr. Jia Uddin is also actively guiding CSE students with information regarding scholarships around the world.



committed to providing service to the University. Towards this end, they have served on multiple internal committees to help with administration and improvement of facilities for the students. In particular, faculty member Mr. Annajiat Alim Rasel served on the Academic Calendar Committee, as well as working closely with the Office of Student Affairs (OSA). The Academic Calendar committee worked on designing a new yearly schedule that allowed greater recess periods for all employees and staff while ensuring productivity and timeliness. In meetings with the OSA, they discussed how to reach students effectively, helping them do better academically and allowing greater engagement through tutorials and workshops.

Chairperson of CSE, Professor Md. Haider Ali, serves on many national level committees. In particular, he was in a committee assisting the Election Commission with their project on Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services. Professor Haider was also the computerization expert in a meeting on the computerization of the Office of Director Accounts, University of Dhaka.

Mr. Annajiat Alim Rasel, Faculty of CSE, was also very active with several national projects. Mr. Annajiat participated in the Information Technology Engineers Examination (ITEE) organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). There were multiple training sessions throughout the year, and the Project Manager, Mr. Md. Golam Sarwar visited the CSE department to discuss how to train government officials of the ICT Directorate, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications, and Information Technology.

Faculty members of CSE are pro-active and highly Mr. Annajiat participated in several meetings under the ITEE project, for discussion on "Question Making and Analysis". Professor Haider Ali and Mr. Annajiat helped conduct an IEE survey on third and fourth year students in the CS and CSE programmes at BRACU. Mr. Annajiat also participated in a series of sessions at GDLN, BRACU for a Distance Learning Seminar Series on "Human Capital and Innovation Policies".

CSE students are the most proactive and energetic individuals on campus. This year, they have arranged several seminars and tutorials, and also participated in competitive events within and outside the University.

The Robotics Club arranged a basic tutorial on robotics that ran for three days. Students were provided with rudimentary equipment. The tutorial focused on programming Arduino micro-controller chips. Earlier in the year, students also helped organize a seminar on High Performance Computing. Faculty member, on study leave, Mr. Md. Zahangir Alom gave a presentation on the topic, followed by questions from the audience.

In June 2015, the Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations organized the Engineering and Computer Science Career Fair sponsored by BRAC IT Services Limited (biTS). As part of this event, the Department organized a programming contest. More than 130 students registered for the contest, and 60 were invited to take part. After the three-hour contest, the top ten students were awarded certificates. There were also monetary prizes for the top three, and all participants got certificates of attendance. Mr. Abu Mohammad Hammad Ali, Mr. Moin Mostakim and Mr. Annajiat Alim Rasel assisted with the organization of the event.

### **Publications**

1. Narzu Tarannum, Sabbir Ahmed Khan, Shifur Rahman Shakil and Md. Khalilur Rhaman, "A Brief Overview and Systematic Approach for Using Agricultural Robot in Developing Countries", *Journal of Modern Science and Technology*, Vol. 3. No. 1. March 2015 Issue. Pp. 88-101.
2. Md. Khalilur Rahman, Abir Imtiaz, Zinia Faisal Taskin Ibne Masud, "Automated System for Bangladesh Railway", *Global Science and Technology Journal*, Vol. 3. No. 1. March 2015 Issue. Pp.25-40.
3. Zahra Bakhtiar Khalid, Md Hasib Ullah, Razu Ahmed, Zakir Hasan Choudhury, Imrul Kaish and Md Khalilur Rhaman, "Electrical Pole Climbing Robot" IEEE Co-Sponsored the 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Computer and Information Technology (ICCIT-15), Bangladesh 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2015, Accepted.
4. Md. Tahmid Rashid, Pritom Chowdhury and Dr. Md. Khalilur Rhaman, "A voice guided surveillance robot with DTMF control and web based control" IEEE co-sponsored The 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Computer and Information Technology (ICCIT-15), Bangladesh 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2015, Accepted.



5. Md. Shadman Sakib Chowdhury, Md. Tahmid Rashid, Mehbas Fairuz Nawal, Dr. Md. Khalilur Rhaman, "Terminal analysis of the operations of a rescue robot constructed for assisting secondary disaster situations" The IEEE Region-10 Humanitarian Technologies for Disaster Prevention and Risk Reduction (IEEE-R 10 HTC 2015), Philippines from December 9-12, 2015, received Best Paper Award.
6. Mohammad Tahmid Rashid, Mohammad Samin Yasar and Dr. Md. Khalilur Rhaman, "Hybrid Traffic Sensor Technology Based On FCD and Image Processing". 5th IEEE International Conference On Control System, Computing and Engineering (ICCSCE 2015), Malaysia 27 to 29 November 2015.
7. Imtiaz Kalam Abir, Hamid Bin Zaman, Moontasir Hassan, Mohammad Tahmid Rashid and Dr. Md. Khalilur Rhaman, "Development and Feasibility Evaluation of a Low Cost Smart Voyage Data Recorder: Marine Black Box" 5th IEEE International Conference On Control System, Computing and Engineering (ICCSCE 2015), Malaysia 27 to 29 November 2015.
8. Muhammed Tawfiq Chowdhury, Md. Saiful Islam, Baijed Hossain Bipul and Md. Khalilur Rhaman, "Implementation of an Optical Character Reader (OCR) for Bengali Language" The 2nd International Conference on Data and Software Engineering (ICoDSE 2015) co-sponsored by IEEE, Indonesia, 25 to 26 November 2015.
9. Mohammad Samin Yasar, Md. Tahmid Rashid and Dr. Md. Khalilur Rhaman, "Digitization of the Entire Traffic System and Mitigation of the Ongoing Traffic Crisis Across Cities of Developing Nations" IEEE TENCON-2015, Nov.1-4, Macau.
10. Md. Khalilur Rhaman, Shifur Rahman Shakil, "Comparative study of transport properties between graphene nanoribbon and MoS<sub>2</sub> due to the adsorption of H<sub>2</sub>S molecule", International Conference on Diamond and Carbon Materials, 6-10 September 2015, Bad Homburg, Germany.
11. Md. Khalilur Rhaman, "UNISEC-Bangladesh; Journey towards satellite research", POC, The 3rd UNISEC-Global Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> July 5, 2015, Tokyo, Japan.
12. Rafat Shams, Shafkat Hossain, Shaoni Priyom, Nusrat Fatema, Shifur Rahman Shakil, Md. Khalilur Rhaman, "An Automated Fire Fighting System", 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Fuzzy Systems and Knowledge Discovery (FSKD 2015), technical co-sponsored by IEEE, 15-17 August 2015 in Zhangjiajie, China.
13. Shadman Sakib, Maruf Hassan, Yaseer Musharraf, Md. Khalilur Rhaman, "A Distanced Machinery Controlling and Monitoring Guardian", 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Fuzzy Systems and Knowledge Discovery (FSKD 2015), co-sponsored by IEEE, 15-17 August 2015 in Zhangjiajie, China.
14. Md. Abdul Kadir, Md. Belayet Chowdhury, Jaber AL Rashid, Shifur Rahman Shakil, Md. Khalilur Rhaman, "An Autonomous Industrial Robot for Loading and Unloading Goods", 4th International Conference on Informatics, Electronics & Vision (ICIEV-15), Kitakyushu, Japan.
15. Narzu Tarannum, Sabbir Ahmed Khan, Shifur Rahman Shakil and Md. Khalilur Rhaman, "Robotics in Agricultural Sector Focusing on Developing Countries", Proceedings of 10th Global Engineering, Science and Technology Conference 2-3 January, 2015, BIAM Foundation, Dhaka, Bangladesh, ISBN: 978-1-922069-69-6
16. Md. Khalilur Rahman, Abir Imtiaz, Zinia Faisal Chowdhury and Qazi Taskin Ibne Masud, "Automated System for Bangladesh Railway", Proceedings of 10th Global Engineering, Science and Technology Conference 2-3 January, 2015, BIAM Foundation, Dhaka, Bangladesh, ISBN: 978-1-922069-69-6 received "Best Paper Award"
17. Md. Khalilur Rhaman, Sabbir Ahmed Khan and Shifur Rahman Shakil, "State of Art in Robotics and Embedded Systems: Bangladesh Perspective", IET Inspec Sponsored 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Computer and Automation Engineering (ICCAE Jan. 2015), Bali, Indonesia.
18. S. O. Olatunji and Hossain Arif, Identification of Erythematous-Squamous Skin Diseases using Support Vector Machines and Extreme Learning Machines: A Comparative Study towards Effective Diagnosis. Transactions on Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence, Volume 2, Issue 6, January 2015.
19. Rashedul Islam, Jia Uddin, Jong-Myon Kim, "An Acoustic Emission Sensor based Fault Diagnosis of Induction Motors using Gabor filter and Multiclass SVM," Journal of Ad-hoc and Sensors Wireless Networks, Old City Publisher, United States.
20. Rashedul Islam, Jia Uddin, Jong-Myon Kim, "Texture Analysis Based Feature Extraction Using Gabor Filter and SVD for Reliable Fault



- diagnosis of an Induction Motor" International Journal of Information Technology and Management.
21. Jia Uddin, Md. Rashedul Islam, Jon-Myon Kim, Cheol-Hong Kim, "A Two- Dimensional Fault Diagnosis Model of Induction Motors using a Gabor Filter on Segmented Images," International Journal of Control and Automation.
  22. Jia Uddin, Dinh Nguyen Van, Jong Myon Kim, "Accelerating 2D Fault Diagnosis of an Induction Motor using a Graphics Processing Unit" International Journal of Multimedia and Ubiquitous Engineering, vol. 10, no. 1, pp. 341-352 (2015).
  23. Md. Rashedul Islam, Jia Uddin, Jong-Myon Kim "Fault Diagnosis of an Induction Motor Using a Gabor Filter and Singular Value Decomposition Based Feature Extraction Method," 2015 International Conference on Platform Technology and Service, PlatCon-15, 26-28 January 2015, Jeju, South Korea.
  24. Fahmid Al Farid, Amirhossein Ghods, Shohag Barman, Md. Anwar Shah, Jia Uddin, "An Efficient Algorithm for Accelerating Image Restoration Using Euclidean and Manhattan Distances," International Conference on materials, Electronics & Information Engineering, ICMEIE-2015, 05-06 June, 2015, Rajshahi, Bangladesh.
  25. Shikder Tahsin Al Amin, "A Modified Fuzzy Relational Clustering Approach For Sentence-Level Text". Published on 2nd International Conference on Electrical Information and Communication Technology.
  26. Fatema Siddika, "Pv6 Deployment Status in Bangladesh and Way towards Migration". Accepted for Publication in the forthcoming issue of Jagannath University Journal of Science, Jagannath University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
  27. Kazi Sinthia Kabir, Tusher Chakraborty and A. B. M. Alim Al Islam, "SuperCrypt: A Technique for Quantum Cryptography through Simultaneously Improving Both Security Level and Data Rate". The International Conference On Networking Systems and Security, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
  28. Iftakhar Ahmad, Kazi Sinthia Kabir, Tanzila Choudhury and A. B. M. Alim Al Islam, "Enhancing Security in Specialized Use of Mobile IP". The International Conference On Networking Systems and Security, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
  29. Akhter Al Amin, Mahmudul Hasan, Kazi Sinthia Kabir, Tanzila Choudhury and A. B. M. Alim Al Islam, "Early Detection of Earthquake Using Satellite Based Quantum Computing". 4th International Conference on Computer Science and Network Technology (ICCSNT 2015), Harbin, China.
  30. Muhidul Islam Khan, "Resource-Aware Task Scheduling by an Adversarial Bandit Solver Method in Wireless Sensor Network", EURASIP Journal on Wireless Communications and Networking, 2015.
  31. Subarno Saha, Rajkin Hossain and Muhidul Islam Khan, "Cooperative Game Theory Based Load Balancing in a Long Term Evolution Network", International Conference on Computer and Information Engineering, Rajshahi, 2015
  32. Abdullah Md. Ishmam, Tasdid Swad and Muhidul Islam Khan, "Design and Implementation of a Li-Fi System Prototype", International Conference on Recent Innovations in Engineering and Technology, Dhaka, 2015.
  33. Masuma Akter Rumi, Asaduzzaman, D. M. Hasibul Hasan, "CPU Power Consumption Reduction in Android Smartphone", 3rd International Conference on Green Energy and Technology (ICGET).
  34. Nusrat Mehjabeen, "Energy-Sustainable Relay Node Deployment in Wireless Sensor Networks", Second round review, COMNET, Elsevier 2015.
  35. Nusrat Mehjabeen, "PowerNap: A Power-Aware Distributed Wi-Fi Access Point Scheduling Algorithm". Second round review, EURASIP Journal on Wireless Communications and Networking 2015.
  36. Mohammed Eunus Ali, Saif-ul-Islam Khan, Sharowar Md. Shahriar Khan & Md. Nasim, "Spatio-temporal keyword search for nearest neighbour queries." Journal of Location Based Services, Volume 9, Issue 2, April 2015, pages 113-137.
  37. Md. Kishwar Shafin, Kazi Lutful Kabir, Iffatur Ridwan, Tasmiah Tamzid Anannya, Rashid Saadman Karim, Mohammad Mozammel Hoque and M. Sohel Rahman, "Impact of heuristics in clustering large biological networks". Computational Biology and Chemistry (CBAC), Volume 59(A), Pages 28-36.
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- for Clustering Large Biological Networks". 11th International Symposium on Bioinformatics Research and Applications.
39. Kazi Lutful Kabir, Md. Kishwar Shafin, Tasmiah Tamzid Anannya, Deepon Debnath, Md. Rayhan Kabir, Md. Aminul Islam, Hasan Sarwar, "A Superior Domain for Handwritten Bangla Basic Characters Recognition". 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Intelligent Systems and Control (ISCO2015), Koimbatore, India, Technical Sponsor: IEEE.
  40. Nazmul Hasan, Kazi Lutful Kabir, Md. Kishwar Shafin, Md Afzal Hossain, "Essence of Cloud Computing: University Admission Process in the Perception of Bangladesh". 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Intelligent Systems and Control (ISCO2015), Koimbatore, India, Technical Sponsor: IEEE.
  41. Md. Kishwar Shafin, Kazi Lutful Kabir, Nazmul Hasan, Israt Jahan Mouri, Samina Tasnia Islam, Lazima Ansari, Md. Mahboob Karim and Md. Afzal Hossain, "Development of an RFID Based Access Control System in the Context of Bangladesh". 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Innovations in Information, Embedded and Communication Systems (ICIIECS 2015), Koimbatore, India, Technical Sponsor: IEEE.
  42. Wali Mohammad Abdullah, Kazi Lutful Kabir, Nazmul Hasan and Sharmin Islam, "Development of a Smart Learning Analytics System Using Bangla Word Recognition and an Improved Document Driven DSS". 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Computer and Information Engineering (ICCIE 2015), Rajshahi, Bangladesh, Technical Co-Sponsor: IEEE.
  43. Hafsa Moontari Ali and Md. Imdadul Islam, "Preliminary Identification of Fingerprint Based on Shape features", International Journal of Computer Applications (IJCA), vol. 120, no. 15, pp. 11-16, June 2015.
  44. Md. Ashraful Alam, Ki-Chul Kwon, Yan-Ling Piao, Young-Seok Kim, and Nam Kim, "Viewing-angle Enhanced Integral Imaging Display Using a Time-multiplexed Two-directional Sequential Projection Scheme and a DEIGR Algorithm," IEEE Photonics Journal (SCI, IF: 2.32), Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 6900214(1-14), February 2015.
  45. Md. Ashraful Alam, Seok-Hee Jeon, and Nam Kim, "Time-multiplexed Two-directional Sequential projections for Integral Imaging 3D Display," Proceedings of CLEO Pacific Rim (OSA) 2015, August 24-28, 2015, Busan, Korea.
  46. Ki-Chul Kwon, Munkh-Uchral Erdenebat, Md. Ashraful Alam, Young-Tae Lim, Kwang-Gi Kim, and Nam Kim, "Integral imaging microscopy with enhanced depth-of-field using a spatial multiplexing," Optics Express (a well reputed journal of OSA, SCI, IF 3.488), Vol. 24, No. 3, pp. 255843 (1-12), February 2016. [Note: Received 16 Dec 2015; revised 21 Jan 2016; accepted 22 Jan 2016; published 26 Jan 2016.]

## Department of Economics and Social Sciences



### Goals

The Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS) was founded in 2003. Since then, it has expanded to include 19 full-time faculty members and over 300 students. More than half the faculty members hold Ph.D.s from reputed universities and have strong research and teaching experience. ESS also has many young teachers dedicated to professional academic careers. All faculty members are committed to close engagement with students to develop their intellectual curiosity and motivation for learning. Faculty members encourage students to ask questions and challenge conventional ideas. Faculty members seek to help students understand the broader economic and social realities they live in, both in Bangladesh and in the global arena so as to develop critical insights and analysis, which can guide them to solutions. Students are prepared for the job market as well as for postgraduate education with emphasis on their growth as all-rounded individuals with strong ethical values. The Department offers two majors and three minors.

### Programmes offered:

- Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSS) in Economics
- Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSS) in Anthropology

- Minors in Economics, Anthropology and Sociology

### Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSS) in Economics

The major in Economics offers its students a broad, comprehensive, demanding and innovative BSS degree in Economics. It is designed to introduce them to the basic concepts and issues in economic theory and discourse, offer them challenging upper level courses that sharpen and focus their understanding and engagement with the discipline, and teach them to apply the concepts learnt in the classroom to real life.

The core courses of the Economics major create a strong theoretical base for any further study in economics. Along with the elective courses, the major courses in Economics effectively prepare students for the employment market in the government and private sectors as well as in development agencies.

### Bachelor of Social Sciences In Anthropology

ESS has been offering a major in Anthropology since Spring 2013. The programme is committed to rigorous teaching, writing and analytical skill-building on issues such as development, modernity, nationalism, sovereignty and culture. The Anthropology faculty includes well-known specialists



who have successfully made ESS an important convening platform that articulates a better historicized, culturally contextualized Southern perspective and offers a new South Asian narrative. The small student-teacher ratio and close mentoring of students, both in the classroom as well as in the field, ensures high-quality social science training with prospects for advanced degrees and interesting careers in the development sector and elsewhere.

### **Minor In Economics, Anthropology and Sociology**

ESS offers a Minor in Economics for students of other disciplines to gain a strong foundation in theoretical and applied micro and macroeconomics along with a basic understanding of the techniques of economic data analysis. The minors in Anthropology and Sociology help students integrate the theoretical knowledge gained in other majors with a deeper understanding of the greater social and development contexts as well as develop their analytical and writing skills.

### **Events at the Department of Economics & Social Sciences (ESS)**

#### **1. Book launch of Sanchita Saxena 6 January 2015**

ESS hosted a book launching ceremony for Sanchita Saxena's, 'Made in Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka: The Labor Behind the Global Garments and Textiles Industries'. Her book has been widely acclaimed for moving the discussions on the garment and textile sector in the global South beyond the general perception of dismal labor conditions and unsuitable factories, clashes with police and wages and exploitative multinational corporations. Dr. Shahidur Rahman of ESS was one of the discussants for the event.

#### **2. A Forum titled 'Gender, Justice and Religion' was organized by the BRACU & Georgetown University Speakers' Forum Series on Faith and Development 16 May 2015**

ESS held its second forum titled 'Gender, Justice and Religion' from the BRACU-Georgetown University Speakers' Forum Series on Faith and Development. The Series is a collaborative project between the ESS at BRACU and the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs at Georgetown University. Guest speakers of this

event included Zainah Anwar, co-founder of Sisters in Islam, Malaysia; Flavia Agnes, co-founder of Majlis, India; Firdous Azim, professor and chairperson of the Department of English and Humanities, BRACU; Faquihuddin Abdul Kodir, founder of Fahmina Foundation, Malaysia; Sara Taylor, Deputy Country Representative of Asia Foundation, Bangladesh; and Nani Zulminarni, national coordinator for Pekka, Indonesia. Katherine Marshall, Senior Fellow at the Berkley Center at Georgetown University; Faustina Perreira, Director Human Rights and Legal Aid Services; and Samia Huq, Associate Professor at ESS chaired and moderated the panels. The workshop started with a welcome address by Professor Syed M. Hashemi, chairperson of the ESS of BRACU and an introduction to Georgetown-BRACU collaboration by Professor Katherine Marshall, Senior Fellow, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Georgetown University. Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor of BRACU, was also present at the event.

### **3. Energy and Environment: Contemporary Experiences in Bangladesh 16 June 2015**

Dr. Seuty Sabur from ESS at BRACU and Dr. Bedi Heather from the Department of Environmental Studies of Dickinson College organized a half-day workshop titled "Energy and Environment: Contemporary Experiences in Bangladesh" on 16th June 2015 at GDLN Center, BRACU. Vice Chancellor Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb inaugurated the workshop. This brought together international scholars like Nusrat Chowdhury, Assistant Professor at the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Amherst College, local scholar Anu Muhammad, Professor at Jahangirnagar University, and activist Zonayed Saki, central leader of National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports. Abul Hassan Rubel, member of the central committee of Ganasamhati Andolon (Peoples Solidarity Movement), Kallol Mustafa, a member of the National Committee to Protect Oil Gas Mineral Resources Power and Ports, a blogger and an engineer by profession to discuss issues pertaining to energy and the environment.

#### **4. Seminar: The Justice Project, organized jointly by Aakar and The Anthropology Collective at BRACU 9 August 2015**



A day-long seminar around The Justice Project, organized jointly by Aakar and The Anthropology Collective at BRACU, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), the Delhi-based trust Aakar, and IDRC, was held at BRAC Centre Inn on Sunday, 9th of August. The 14 research papers and 5 films commissioned through the project bring to the foremost pressing concerns on justice in and across different sites in South Asia. These papers map a range of ideas, practices and contestations around justice as they take shape in the respective countries.

### Brown Bag Seminars

1. Anthropology students collectively organized a session with Shahana Ghosh, a Ph.D. student from Yale University on 25 June 2015. She shared her methodologies and spoke about the interaction among the border side people of India and Bangladesh under growing militarization. Students also had the opportunity to participate in a seminar with Imam Talal Eid from the USA on tolerance in Islam and role of the youth on 27 June 2015.
2. The Anthropology Forum of BRACU (AFBU) arranged a Brown Bag on 2 July 2015, which featured one of the most discerning and intellectual scholars in the field today, Professor Afsan Chowdhury, who is currently a researcher and faculty at BRACU. The seminar entitled: 'Inclusive History', was followed by the screening of "Zvuv'i hyx" (Tahader Juddho) also directed by Afsan Chowdhury.
3. AFBU arranged a seminar conducted by Dr. Nasima Selim, entitled- Ethnography of Sufi (Healing) Practices in the contemporary West: Intersections of Medical Anthropology, Anthropology of Religion and Philosophy on 2 August 2015.

### Faculty Publications:

#### Farzana Munshi

Dr. Farzana Munshi's article (co-authored with D. Durevall), 'Trade Liberalization and Wage Inequality: Evidence from Bangladesh's Cotton Textile Industry' has been published in the latest issue of the Journal of Bangladesh Studies (vol. 16 (1&2), 2015)

#### Professor S. M. Shamsul Alam

Professor Alam published his book:

"Governmentality and Counter-Hegemony in Bangladesh" (September 2015), Palgrave Macmillan.

#### Professor M. Wasique Rahman Khan & Adnan M. S. Fakir

Professor M. Wasique Rahman Khan and Adnan M. S. Fakir recently published their research entitled "Determinants of malnutrition among urban slum children in Bangladesh" in the journal "Health Economics Review." The paper uses anthropometric weight-for-age nutrition status of children to conduct an ordered logistic analysis of the role of health-seeking practices, child health precautions and medical cost knowledge to understand the role of health knowledge towards child health in the Korail slum of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Adnan M. S. Fakir, Lecturer at ESS, has published his paper titled "A framework for MFI Regulation" in the peer reviewed journal "International Journal of Business and Management Study" and can be accessed at <http://www.seekdl.org/nm.php?id=5568>.

#### Dr. Samia Huq

27-29 August 2015

Dr. Samia Huq, Associate Professor of Anthropology at ESS was invited to be lead author and participate in the Inaugural Lead Authors' meeting at the International Panel for Social Progress (IPSP) <http://www.ip-socialprogress.org> in Bilgi University, Istanbul, from 27th to 29th August 2015. Dr. Samia Huq will be lead author for the chapter on Religions, Worldviews and Society. She will be collaborating with professors from University of Exeter, Boston University, the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, the Divinity School at Harvard University, University of Toronto, Oklahoma, Purdue University, Aston University in the UK and National University of Singapore.

*Samia Huq, Associate Professor at ESS has authored the following op-eds:*

1. "The Mayoral Elections in Bangladesh: Between Toxic Waste and Toxic Politics" in Viewpoint, Institute for South Asia Studies, University of California at Berkley.  
<http://southasia.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/shared/Viewpoint/Artic...>
2. "Of Death and Democracy: Bangladesh's Contested Secularism and the Road Ahead" in



Viewpoint, Institute for South Asia Studies, University of California at Berkeley. <http://southasia.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/shared/Viewpoint/Artic...>

**Dr. Wahid Abdallah**

Dr. Wahid Abdallah, Assistant Professor of ESS has published a discussion paper (working paper) at the Institute of Labor Studies (IZA), titled 'Corruption in the Health Sector: Evidence from Unofficial Consultation Fees in Bangladesh'. The paper is co-authored with Dr. Shyamal Chowdhury of University of Sydney and Kazi Iqbal of BIDS. The paper can be found at the following link: [http://www.iza.org/en/webcontent/publications/papers/viewAbstract?dp\\_id=...](http://www.iza.org/en/webcontent/publications/papers/viewAbstract?dp_id=...)

**Dr. Seuty Sabur**

1. Op-ed/ Blog 'No VAT on Education: The Possibility for Transversal Politics' Posted on 16th September 2015  
<http://www.thedailystar.net/op-ed/politics/the-possibility-transversal-politics-143623>
2. Blog 'Shirin Neshat: A Soulful Nomad in Search of a Home' Posted on 4th February 2015  
<http://www.chobimela.org/chobi-mela-viii-blog/2015/2/4/shirin-neshat-a-soulful-nomad-in-search-of-a-home/>

**Academic Appointments**

1. Director (in charge) of Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) and Office of Student Affairs (January 2015-October 2015), BRACU
2. "Shahabag, Trance and the Magic of the Nation: Gender-Religion-Class-Ethnic Questions" in the panel 'Memory, Agency and Reconfiguration of the other' in 'Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Conference 2015', at the University of Airlangga, Surabaya, 8th August 2015

**Fahmida Rahman**

1. Paper entitled 'Domestic vs International Remittance flow: Economic Analysis of the Value of Remittance Transfer from Bangladeshi Migrants' in 'IOSR Journal of Economics and Finance' in Volume 6, Issue 4. Ver. III (Jul. - Aug. 2015).
2. Paper on Economics of Improving Hospitality Management in Bangladesh through Employee Satisfaction. Tourism development and hospitality management are positively correlated with each other.
3. Paper on the RMG Sector of Bangladesh:

Problems and Survival Strategy. This paper examined the impact on the apparel industry's growth and the performance of major apparel exporting countries with special focus on Bangladesh after the phase out of the Multi-Fiber agreement (MFA) on 31st December 2004.

**Meheri Tamanna**

1. 'Life in a megacity: Livelihood strategies and survival mechanisms of rickshaw pullers in Dhaka city' Millennial Asia journal (2015), an international journal of Asian Studies, SAGE publications, issue 6(1). (co-authored)
2. 'The political perception of youth: Where are we heading to', IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences (2015), issue 20(7).
3. 'Local Government in Bangladesh: Quest for Legal Reform' (2015) (South Asia Journal, issue-14 (co-authored).

**ESS Faculty Participation In Conferences, Meetings, Seminars and Workshops**

1. Dr. Farzana Munshi and her research colleagues (Shanthi Nataraj, Krishna Kumar, & Minhaj Mahmud) presented an article in an international conference organized by IZA/DFID entitled "Labor Markets in South Asia: Evidence and Policy Lessons" held from 17 to 18 December 2015 at the Westin Hotel, Dhaka, Bangladesh. As a part of the research project "Formal Informal Labour Nexus and Growth In Bangladesh" Dr Farzana and her research colleagues also conducted a focus group discussion on discrete choice experiments on jobs in Dhaka on 19 December 2015.
2. Fahmida Saadia Rahman, Senior Lecturer of ESS, attended a conference entitled '2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Multidisciplinary Trends in Academic Research (MTAR-2015)' held on 29th - 30th September 2015 organized by 'Global Illuminators' at Bangkok, Thailand. She presented her paper: 'Effect of Post Multi Fiber Agreement - A Blessing for Bangladesh: Study of Survival Strategy'
3. Dr. Dina M. Siddiqui, Professor at ESS has presented the paper titled "Secular (izing) Histories and Contested Narratives of the Bangladeshi Nation." at Bangladesh-Myanmar Initiative Conference. Yangon, August 13.
4. Dr. Seuty Sabur, Assistant Professor at ESS has recently presented her paper titled 'Shahabag, Politics of Remembering and



Forgetting: Nation at an Uneasy Intersection with Class, Gender, Ethnicity and Religion' in the panel, 'Memory, Agency and Reconfiguration of the 'other'' at the Inter Asia Cultural Studies Society (IACS) conference on 'Undercurrents: Unearthing Hidden Social and Discursive Practices'.

5. Dr Shahidur Rahman, Associate Professor of Sociology, was invited to be a panel member at an International conference on "Transformation, Challenges and Opportunities for Bangladesh Garments Industry" on 5 and 6 of June at Harvard University. The two day event was organized jointly by Harvard University South Asia Institute and Harvard University Center for the Environment and International Sustainable Development Institute Inc.
6. Dr Shahidur Rahman joined as the Additional Director of Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) at BRACU. On 27<sup>th</sup> June he attended a workshop on "Implementation plan of Quality Assurance Unit and IQAC" organized by the World Bank and University Grants Commission.
7. Dr Shahidur Rahman joined as a discussant in a seminar entitled "Smart Ways for Increasing RMG's Contribution to Bangladesh Development" jointly organized by Institute of Policy and Social Sciences (IPSS), Dhaka and Copenhagen Consensus Center (CCC), at the BRAC Centre Inn on 23 December, 2015.
8. Shehzad Muhammad Arifeen, lecturer of ESS attended the Complex Systems Winter School 2015 organized by the Santa Fe Institute at the Indian Institute for Science Education and Research, Mohali, Punjab.
9. Meheri Tamanna, senior lecturer of ESS, presented a paper entitled 'Social status of urban poor working women who help to alleviate poverty: A Bangladesh perspective' In International Congress on Women Researches: multidisciplinary point of view for empowering women organized by Women and Democracy Society' (KADEM) and "Sakarya University Women Research Centre" (SAUKAM) on 11-13 December 2015 in Turkey.

#### *Faculty transitions:*

#### **ESS Faculty and Student Achievements**

1. The Anthropology Collective of the ESS at BRACU organized a field visit to Mymensingh on 20 May 2015. The students stayed in the

Mymensingh BRAC Learning Center (BLC) and over a course of two days visited the Recycled Handmade Paper Factory, BRAC's Adolescent Development Club, observed activities of the BRAC Microfinance programme, Human Right and Legal Aid Services as well as the BRAC Education Programme.

2. The Anthropology Forum of BRACU arranged an open house for the Freshmen of Anthropology programme in Fall 2015. This open house event gave the freshers the opportunity to break ice with senior students and faculty members.
3. The Anthropology Forum also arranged a seminar on "No VAT student movement". The seminar was hosted by Dr. Seuty Sabur, Assistant Professor, who talked about her published article on the movement. The central leaders of the movement, members of "Chatro Union" and students of Anthropology forum were present at the seminar.

#### **Remembering the Life and Work of Professor Plash Karim**



A commemoration was held in the ESS Lounge on 21 October 2015 to celebrate and remember the life of Professor Plash Karim who passed away on October 11. Arranged by ESS, which was the workplace of Professor Karim since 2007, the memorial was attended by his many students, colleagues and well-wishers from BRACU and beyond. Speakers at the event, including past and recent students of Professor Karim, shared personal memories and recalled with great fondness various mutual experiences with him which left lasting impressions on their lives. The event was hosted by Professor Karim's friend and colleague Professor S M Shamsul Alam.



## Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

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### Introduction

The Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) operates under the School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS). The department has been running successfully with around 1200 students. Our objective is to educate well-informed and well-trained graduates who can use electronic, telecommunication and power system engineering tools to solve real world problems, and to train students in research methodology, so that they can contribute to the creation of new knowledge. The department offers courses which follow University Grants Commission (UGC) requirements and also maintain standards that are parallel to the curricula of American and European universities and institutions.

The academic programmes offered by the EEE department include the Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (B.Sc.EEE), Bachelor of Science in Electronic and Communication Engineering (B.Sc.ECE.), Master of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (M.Sc.EEE) and Master of Engineering in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (M.Engg.EEE).

### Achievements

There are several research centres and laboratories operating under the EEE department among which the Control and Applications Research Centre (CARC) and the Robotics Laboratory have received national and international acclaim. CARC has expertise and activities in the area of system and control engineering. Most CARC projects involve

close collaboration with industrial organizations including companies like EnergyPac Bangladesh, BRAC Solar and Dhaka Power Distribution Company.

Dr. Mosaddequr Rahman is involved in the development of a solar powered electric car for Dhaka city dwellers that will be eco-friendly and economically affordable. After almost two years of deliberations, since the solar car project kicked off in summer 2013, Dr. Mosaddeq and his team led by Imran Bin Jafar, Teaching Assistant, EEE Department, have finally been able to construct a fully functioning solar car for the first time in Bangladesh. The solar car project has the potential to attract investment for further research and development in this area so that a fully functional solar car for commercial use can be manufactured locally at an affordable price.

In another funded project from BRACU, Dr. Mosaddeq is engaged in the development of a novel prototype multi-level solar panel system. The urban cities in third world countries are faced with acute shortage of electricity. Generating electricity using solar panels is a potential solution to the current energy crisis as it is renewable and climate friendly. However, in large urban cities there is not enough roof top space for installation of solar panels. The proposed system aims at solving this problem by introducing a novel approach to arrange the solar panels in a way that minimizes the use of floor space.

Students of the Department working under Robotics Laboratory participated in the Annual Lunabotics



Mining Competition organized by The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for two years in a row. Last year, the Chondrobot 2 did marvellously well and was ranked as the best performing robot among all the Asian universities that participated in that event. In addition to that, it is currently working on other robotic designs.

There are other notable accomplishments of the Department which are mentioned below:

- 104 students were awarded BSc in EEE Degree and 13 students were awarded BSc in ECE Degree in the November 2015 convocation.
- Humayra Chowdhury, a M.Sc.EEE student of BRACU, is completing the remainder of her Master Degree at the University of Patras, Greece under the It's time for Collaboration TowArds Close CooperaTion (INTACT) scholarship programme.
- Dr. A K M Abdul Malek Azad received Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (IEEE) Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Achievement Award 2015 for initiating and leading the successful IEEE volunteer-led project in Bangladesh to help solve the local electricity crisis by bringing hybrid solar rickshaw technology to the local manufacturing industry.
- Dr. Mosaddequr Rahman was awarded the "Best Researcher Award" in BRACU for his outstanding research work.
- EEECP Project Workshop
- Seminar on Microcontroller and Robotics
- Seminar on Silicon Micro-technology to Graphene and Nanotechnology
- Grameenphone House Tour
- Seminar on Machine to Machine Communication
- Supriyo Shafkat Ahmed received an award from BRACU for Services to the University.
- Participation of the solar car project group in Power and Energy Week

### Faculty Overview

The faculty members boast both strong academic and research backgrounds and have international experience in academia and industry. They publish regularly in high impact journals and conferences. Also, faculty members of the Department regularly go abroad to attain graduate degrees and return to BRACU upon the completion of their studies adding further to the quality of teaching.

In 2015, three faculty members took study leave and went abroad for higher studies. Aysha Siddique

Shanta left for her PhD at University of Tennessee, Knoxville in USA. She received the prestigious four year Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship at the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University. Rumana Rahman Khan enrolled in Master of Engineering Management-Telecommunications Engineering at the University of Technology, Sydney in Australia. Seefath Nayeem enrolled in the Master of Science programme at the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom. Also, Rachaen Mahfuz Huq rejoined the department in 2015 after completion of his Master of Science in Electronics Engineering from Politecnico di Torino, Italy and Master of Science in Communication Systems from KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden.

### Research Activities by Faculty Members

- The SIGHT committee of IEEE has approved funding for the Solar Powered Electric Wheel Chair, a project being conducted under Dr. Abdul Malek Azad, the director of CARC.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between CARC and Centre of Rehabilitation for the Paralysed (CRP), Savar, for collaboration on "Electric Wheelchair for Disabled People".
- Collaboration between CARC and Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) on "Electrically Assisted Rickshaw Vans with PV Support".
- CARC and BRAC Health are pursuing a collaboration programme on one of the ongoing projects of the Centre, solar electric ambulance van.
- A research paper entitled "Torque Sensor Based Electrically Assisted Hybrid Rickshaw Van with PV Assistance and Solar Battery Charging Station", a CARC project, was presented at the 3rd International Conference on Advances in Electrical Engineering (ICAEE).
- Dr. Mosaddeq received university funding for the development of a novel prototype multi-level solar panel system.

### List of Publications

The following 24 research papers were published by EEE faculty members

- Mahmud, A. A., Zaman, A. Zafar, I. B., & Rahman, M. (2015, December). Simulation and Analysis of Battery Performance of A Solar Car Using A Model Implemented in SIMULINK. Paper presented at International Conference on Electrical Information



- and Communication Technology (EICT 2015). KUET, Khulna, Bangladesh.
- Ahmed, S., Mahmud, A. A., & Rahman, M. (2015, December). Power Pilferage in Bangladesh: A Simple and Economically Affordable Solution. Paper presented at IEEE International Women in Engineering (WIE) Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering 2015 (WIECON-ECE 2015), Dhaka, Bangladesh.
  - Khan, F. R., Aurony, A. T., Rahman, A., Munira, F., Halim, N., & Azad, A. (2015, December). Torque Sensor Based Electrically Assisted Hybrid Rickshaw-Van With PV Assistance and Solar Battery Charging Station. Paper presented at 3rd International Conference on Advances in Electrical Engineering (ICAEE), IUB, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
  - Chowdhury, S. J., Rahman, R., & Azad, A. (2015, June). Power conversion for environment-friendly electrically assisted rickshaw using photovoltaic technology in Bangladesh. In Transportation Electrification Conference and Expo (ITEC), 2015 IEEE (pp. 1-6). IEEE.
  - Shakil, S. R., Atanu Kumar, S., & Belal Hossain Bhuiyan, M. (2015, April). Transition in electronic transport properties of graphene nanoribbon due to the adsorption of atoms and molecules. In Nano/Micro Engineered and Molecular Systems (NEMS), 2015 IEEE 10th International Conference on (pp. 375-379). IEEE.
  - Shakil, S. R., Zohra, F. T., Pramanik, P., Tushar, R. I., Atanu Kumar, S., & Belal Hossain Bhuiyan, M. (2015, April). Vapor adsorption limitation of graphene nanoribbons in quasi conductance increment: A NEGF approach. In Nano/Micro Engineered and Molecular Systems (NEMS), 2015 IEEE 10th International Conference on (pp. 366-371). IEEE.
  - Ahmadullah, N., Islam, S., & Ahmed, T. (2015, November). RouteFinder: Real-time optimum vehicle routing using mobile phone network. In Proc. IEEE Region 10 Conference (TENCON), pp. 1-7. Macau, China. IEEE.
  - Ahmed, T., Pathan, A. S. K., & Ahmed, S. S. (2015). Learning Algorithms for Anomaly Detection from Images. International Journal of System Dynamics Applications (IJSDA), 4(3), 43-69.
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- List of INTACT Project Partners:**
1. Electrical Engineering Department, Frederick University, Cyprus
  2. Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, BRACU, Bangladesh
  3. Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, United International University, Bangladesh
  4. Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh
  5. School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan
  6. School of Engineering, Kathmandu University, Nepal
  7. School of Engineering, Bangkok University, Thailand
  8. Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Malaya, Malaysia
  9. Department of Electronic and Information, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
  10. Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, Dortmund University of Technology, Germany
  11. Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, University of Limerick, Ireland
  12. College of Science and Technology, Royal University of Bhutan
  13. School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, City University, London
  14. Politechnika Wrocławska, Poland
  15. Faculty of Mathematic and Natural Sciences, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia
  16. Department of Electronic Engineering, Southeast University, China



## Department of English and Humanities

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The Department of English and Humanities (ENH) celebrates the liberal arts spirit of the university by attempting to cultivate creativity together with the analytical skills of its students along three major academic streams: Literature, English Language Teaching (ELT) & Applied Linguistics and Media & Cultural Studies. A minor programme in History offers the students the opportunity to be exposed to historical events and issues.

Concentration on literature is at the heart of the department and aspires to instil a strong analytical orientation. The programme presents a diverse range of literary writing in English from different historical periods and regions, encouraging students to contextualize literary works in relation to their historical and cultural realities. A critical and analytical focus is also fostered through interactions with theoretical materials and writing exercises.

The Applied Linguistics and ELT focus approaches language both as an acquired skill and as a socio-cultural phenomenon, offering the students a deep and nuanced understanding of the place of language teaching in academia. They are taught theories of language teaching and trained to consider language as subject to analysis and research by applying these theories in English language teaching and beyond.

The Media and Cultural Studies focus uses an interdisciplinary approach, whereby students are equipped with knowledge of the origin and evolution of "media". Alongside this, they become acquainted with cultural theories and are given an understanding of how global political powers bring all these components together. This enables them to interpret the changing cultural practices and gain

insights into both global events and personal experiences.

The undergraduate programme concludes with an extended paper or report of the internship done in a relevant organization, through which students can highlight the breadth of their learning through a focused and organized written project. This exercise helps students gain confidence in applying their knowledge and training to produce a discrete piece of research.

The postgraduate programme for the degree of MA in English has two streams: Literature and Applied Linguistics & ELT. The Literature concentration introduces students to a wide variety of specialized topics such as post-colonialism, feminism, postmodernism and many dimensions of contemporary literature, making it a unique literature programme in Bangladesh. The Applied Linguistics and ELT concentration also inculcates the students with a deep understanding of English as a language and the different approaches that are being adopted toward English teaching.

The development of the Minor in History assists in making the Department of English and Humanities an interactive multidisciplinary unit since it encourages students from other departments to take courses in history. To ensure the best possible utilisation of writing potentials, the Department has a writing corner where dedicated teachers provide guidance to students of the Department.

One of the hallmarks of ENH is its active student body and faculty. 2015 has been a productive year for the Department, in keeping with its tradition of engagement in many issues.



## ENH Seminar Series

2015 included seminars by several distinguished academics. In May, David John Newbold, Senior Researcher at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, presented a talk entitled "Testing English as a Lingua Franca: possible, useful, or just a fool's errand?", where he discussed the phenomenal growth in the use of English as the world's academic lingua franca, and the corresponding need to develop tests which reflect the way in which English is actually used in non-native speaker interaction. The presentation reported on a project, carried out at the University of Venice, to develop a European university entrance test which reflects this reality rather than tests premised on native speaker norms.

In July the seminar series continued with the presentation of two papers on Literature and History respectively. The first one entitled "Interpreting Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë" was presented by Dr. Sohana Manzoor. The lecture was based on her dissertation, "A Modernist among the Victorians: The Case of Emily Brontë", which repositions Brontë as a precursor to the modernists of the early twentieth century. Dr. Manzoor has recently completed a Ph.D. in English Literature from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, USA. The second paper, entitled "The Disinherited: Conversion to Christianity & the Economies of Loss in Colonial Calcutta" was presented by Mou Banerjee. The guest speaker is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of History, Harvard University. Her research explores Indian intellectuals' encounters with Christianity in the nineteenth century.

A paper, "Incorporating Study Trips in a Composition Course", was presented by Sabreena Ahmed, Lecturer, ENH, in May 2015. The presenter discussed how short study trips (e.g. to museums, slums and book fairs, etc.) can contribute in developing critical thinking and free writing among first-year students of English Literature, and Applied Linguistics and ELT.

In August 2015, Mushira Habib, lecturer on study leave, presented her paper under the ENH Seminar Series. The paper was titled "The Character Portrayal (or the lack) of Fanny Price in Mansfield Park".

November was made eventful by the presence of two extensively published authors. Firstly, eminent historian and Padma Bhushan awardee Ramachandra Guha was in conversation with Afsan

Chowdhury for an edifying discussion on the place of empirical research in historical scholarship and writing. The second event titled "Poetry Matters" showcased the works of critically acclaimed poet, translator, artist, and editor Sudeep Sen.

## International collaborations

The academic partnership initiated in 2014 between BRACU-ENH Department and the Umeå Center for Gender Studies at Umeå University in Sweden proceeded in 2015 with the teacher exchange programme. ENH moved ahead with its first phase, with teachers teaching at each others' units at both institutions. Professor Firdous Azim taught at UCGS from the 2 September to the 23 September 2015. She took classes in two courses which were entitled Feminist Theories and Post-colonial Feminisms. She also gave a public lecture on "Feminism in Bangladesh" and met Ph.D. students at the Centre. The exchange programme will continue with faculty members from UCGS visiting ENH in Spring 2016.

## Student Activities

Md. Mustafa Monowar, an M.A. student of the department, was selected to represent Bangladesh at the Future News Conference held at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, Scotland from 4 to 6 September 2015. Monowar was chosen after a prolonged and rigorous series of selection processes administered by the British Council. His participation will contribute to his profile and potential career in journalism.

Art work by Faria Hoque, a student of the undergraduate programme at ENH, was selected for the 5<sup>th</sup> Tone International Miniature Art Biennale 2015 held from 13 to 30 November 2015 at Gallery Chitrak, Dhaka. Her pen-drawn picture titled "Greenery" was included alongside the works of 322 other participants from different countries. The board of advisors and judges included artist Mustafa Manwar, Professor Samarjit Roy, Professor Rafiqun Nabi, architect and art critic Rabiul Hussain and Professor Abul Barq Alvi.

## Drama at ENH

ENH Department buzzed with drama and excitement in May 2015 when the students were given a unique chance to participate in a bilingual script writing workshop titled "The Play's the Thing". The main objective of the workshop was to impart the skill of creating a drama script from scratch. The workshop was conducted by Ikhtisad Ahmed, Shaan Rahman, Anika Mahin and Rukhsana R.



Chowdhury, all of whom are involved with either teaching, performing or writing plays for the stage. The participants spent two engrossing days of grappling with the tricks and techniques of writing scripts, and finally culminated in a very successful student performance where two plays, one in Bangla and one in English, were presented. The BRACU Drama and Theatre Forum (BUDTF) worked in collaboration with ENH and presented a display of musical mime which was highly entertaining.

Amidst the year's busy schedule, ENH ended 2015 with a colourful and creative cultural programme. The students of ENG 217: Shakespeare and ENG 461: Modern British Drama organized a cultural festival to celebrate the end of the semester in the BRACU auditorium. Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury, Senior Lecturer and Rifat Mahbub, Assistant Professor, ENH were the respective course teachers and the advisors for the event. The programme included songs and recitation of Bengali and English poems as well as the dramatization of two plays-excerpts from Shakespeare's King Lear, and the play Makhon Chor, written by undergraduate student, Maruf Rayhan. BUDTF provided technical support and guidance.

### Faculty Changes

2015 saw the addition of new faculty members as well as the return of those on study leave.

- Rifat Mahbub, Ph.D., joined as Assistant Professor at the Department from May 2015.
- Anika Mahin joined as a Lecturer of ENH in May 2015. She completed her M.A. in English Literature from ENH.
- Asifa Sultana, Ph.D., rejoined ENH in April 2015 upon completion of her Ph.D. Dr. Sultana had been a lecturer at the Department since July 2008, and worked at ENH for over three years before she went on study leave.
- SM Mohibul Hasan, Lecturer of English & Humanities, went on study leave in May 2015. Mr. Hasan will be pursuing his Doctoral Studies in the area of "English Pronunciation Instruction" at the Department of Linguistics, University of Dhaka.

### Faculty Contributions

Faculty members of ENH have also worked hard to make 2015 a productive and fruitful year through their contributions and participation in various academic events and gatherings.

- Professor Azim was invited to deliver the keynote

speech at a conference on Feminism and Literature, which was hosted by the Department of English at ASA University in June 2015. Her talk was titled "Feminist Theory and Women's Writing".

- Professor Firdous Azim also presented her plenary paper on the relation between social movements and literary writings at the Inter Asia Cultural Studies (IACS) biennial conference held in August at Airlangga University, Surabaya, Indonesia. She also presented a second paper on "Gender, Writing and Nation" at the newly-formed Bangladesh-Myanmar academic and intellectual exchange in Yangon, Myanmar. Professor Afsan Chowdhury is also a member of this exchange network, and he presented a paper on Diversity and Class in the same meeting.
- In October, Professor Firdous Azim presented her paper entitled "English Language in the Globalised Market Place" in the session, "Minding your language" - English language skills in a globalised world" at the symposium on "Access Points & Progression Pathways - Routes to success in education, employment & skills" organized by the British Council, Bangladesh.
- A provocative discussion between Professor Firdous Azim, Chairperson of ENH, and global feminist campaigner and writer Ruchira Gupta was held in the session titled "Sex Workers or Prostituted Women?" at the Dhaka Literary Festival 2015. The discussion explored issues surrounding the sex trade.
  - In July 2015, the Department of English and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh, jointly with the American Center, arranged an international conference titled "International Conference on Language, Literature & Community". Professor Firdous Azim, was the moderator of the panel discussion on the first day at the conference. This discussion revolved around various issues involved in studying Humanities around the world. The panelists of the session were Professors Jenny Sharpe, Harish Trivedi, Claire Chambers, Ulka Anjaria & Kaiser Haq, who contributed by sharing viewpoints from their countries. Three papers on literature and one on psycholinguistics were presented by Professor Rifat Mahbub, Professor Sohana Manzoor and Sabreen Ahmed from ENH faculty and by senior ENH students Naushin Nazifa Islam and Risana Nehreen Mallik.



- Professor Rifat Mahbub gave a talk titled "The Importance of Self Discipline in Education" at Scholastica International School, Uttara on 21 September 2015. It aimed at instilling inspiration and discipline among the students of the institution.
- Professor Asifa Sultana, Assistant Professor, ENH, presented a paper titled "Development of Verb Morphology in Bangla-speaking Preschool Children" at the 37th International Conference of Linguistic Society of India (ICOLSI) held at the Jawaharlal Nehru University from 15 to 17 of October 2015. Dr. Sultana interprets children's performance with reference to structural and cognitive properties, and the prevalence of the grammatical markers under examination.
- Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury, gave a presentation titled "Historical Overview of the Urdu Literary Traditions in Bangladesh" at the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference, Iitihash o Oitijjo'r Bishoy organised by the History Academy, Dhaka on the 28 August 2015.
- Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury also attended a three-day international conference titled "Comparative Literature: Questions of Languages and Minority" on comparative literature, organized by the Center for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad from 14 to 16 October 2015. Her paper was entitled "A Search for the 'Self': Trials and Tribulations of Urdu Writers in Bangladesh".
- Mohammad Mahmudul Haque, Senior Lecturer of the Department, presented his paper titled "The Needs for 'Needs Analysis': A Tertiary-level Academic EAP Course in Bangladesh" on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at the National Conference on "English Studies in Bangladesh: Reconsidering Conceptual Paradigms" organized by the Department of English, South East University, Dhaka. Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, Ph.D., Department of English, University of Dhaka and coordinator of ENH, BRACU, was the chief guest of the inaugural session of the conference.
- S.M. Mohibul Hasan, Lecturer ENH presented a paper entitled "Outcomes of Contrastive Instruction on Pronunciation Acquisition" at The Asian Conference on Language Learning 2015 held in Osaka, Japan from 29 April to 4 May 2015. The paper explores a number of pedagogical issues in Second Language Acquisition.
- Nawshaba Ahmed, Lecturer of ENH, presented her paper entitled "Looking Outside the Colonist Lens: Exploitative Agriculture, Land Depletion, and Environmental Hazards in the Colonial Texts" at the International Interdisciplinary Conference Ecocriticism, Environmental Justice and Literature held in August 2015 at University of Dhaka. The conference was jointly organized by Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)-Bangladesh Planning Committee and Edward M. Kennedy Center, Dhaka.

### Publications (2015)

Ahmed, S. (2015). Incorporating Study Trips in a Composition Course. In Inspire Department of English Writing Service (DEWS) International Conference 2014. Dhaka.

Azim, F. (2015). Speaking the Unspeakable or Limits of Representability. IIC Quaterly, 41(3 & 4).

Azim, F. (2015). Women are Still the Second Sex. Commonwealth Foundation. Retrieved from [www.commonwealthwriters.org/women-are-still-the-second-sex-firdous-azim/](http://www.commonwealthwriters.org/women-are-still-the-second-sex-firdous-azim/).

Chowdhury, A., Afza, Z., & Dewan, N. (2015). Human Rights Beyond the State: Generating Spaces for Rights in Society. IIC Quaterly, 41(3/4).

Haque, M. M., & Hasan, L. M. (2015). Context Sensitivity and Language Teaching Methods: Perspectives of Tertiary-level Teachers. Harvest: Jahangirnagar University Studies in Language and Literature, 30.

Haque, M. M., & Zishnu, Z. A. (2015). An evaluation of the tasks of IX-X textbook English for Today: An empirical study. Spectrum: Journal of the Department of English, 10.

Haque, M. M. (2015). Anxiety and Willingness to Communicate in Language Learning: A Case Study. Crossings: University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh Journal of English Studies, 6.

Hooda, R. (2015). Influences and Varied Perspectives of Colonial Science and Technology in Amitav Ghosh's 'The Imam and the Indian' and The Calcutta Chromosome. Crossings: University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh Journal of English Studies, 6.

Mahbub, R. (2015). From gender-not-an-issue to gender is the issue: The educational and migrational pathways of middle-class women moving from urban Bangladesh to Britain. Gender and Education (UK).



## Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

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### Introduction

The Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) was established in 2001. It has been providing quality education in basic and applied sciences to students of different disciplines of BRACU, including its own.

### Academic Programmes

Ongoing academic programmes at the MNS are:

- Bachelor of Science in Applied Physics and Electronics (APE)
- Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology
- Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
- Bachelor of Science in Microbiology
- Bachelor of Science in Physics
- Master of Science in Biotechnology
- Double Major in Biotechnology
- Double Major in Mathematics
- Double Major in Microbiology
- Double Major in Physics
- Minor in Biotechnology
- Minor in Mathematics
- Minor in Microbiology
- Minor in Physics

The Department is offering courses in physical and life sciences, and mathematics. It also envisages widening its range of academic programmes both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. At the postgraduate level, proposals for M.Phil. in Physics and MS. in Microbiology have been sent to UGC for approval.

### Faculty Overview

In terms of the number of faculty members, the

MNS Department is the second largest at BRACU having a total of 43 full-time teachers and 14 teaching assistants. Senior faculty members have either Ph.D. degrees or Master degrees from abroad, having years of teaching and research experience at prestigious academic and R&D institutions both at home and abroad; and young and brilliant teachers who have chosen teaching and research as their vocation.

### Academic Achievements

The total number of students pursuing various undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the department in 2015 was about 400. Eight undergraduate and fifteen postgraduate students from Biotechnology, four undergraduate students from Microbiology, one undergraduate student from Physics and one undergraduate student from Applied Physics and Electronics Completed their degrees.

### Research Activities

The research programmes in life sciences include vital areas of medical, environmental and plant biotechnology. Some specific areas of research include non-communicable diseases, phytomedicine, cancer research, safe drinking water, etc. In plant biotechnology, research work concentrates on the development of stress-tolerant varieties of crops of economic importance.

- M. Mahboob Hossain, Ph.D. received a research grant of BDT 300, 000 (Taka Three Lakhs only) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year from the MOS&T, GOB for the project entitled, "Isolation of ethanol producing yeast strains from various natural sources and production of ethanol using molasses and kitchen waste as substrate".
- The research programmes of microbiology include isolation and characterization of



different organisms in collaboration with ICDDR,B., BCSIR and the Microbiology Department of the DU. There exists good research collaboration with BIRDEM which includes studies regarding statistical analysis of some characteristics of diabetic patients and the association of Diabetes Mellitus to obesity.

- The "Fermentation and Industrial Biotechnology" project is being carried out in collaboration with BCSIR. The other on-going projects in biotechnology have been "Establish Micro Propagation and Transformation Protocols to Produce Various Transgenic Agricultural Crops", "Isolate and Characterize Several Salt Tolerant Genes" and "Developing Salinity Stress Tolerant Transgenic Tomato Variety" under the BAS-USDA Endowment Fund.
- Dr. Firoze H. Haque, presented a research proposal seminar entitled "Micro-device fabrication using photolithography to study transport and magnetic properties" on 17 September 2015.

### **Synergy between BRAC & BRACU**

An MOU exists between BRAC ARDC and BRACU for cooperation and collaboration in the field of biotechnology. The MNS Department is hoping to play a vital role in developing the curricula, textbooks, and delivery and evaluation procedures for the 'BRAC Education Programme' (BEP). E-learning modules for open and distance learning for mathematics and other basic science subjects might also be developed.

### **Research Linkages and MOU's with Academic and R&D Organizations**

The Department has collaborative research links with BIRDEM, DU, BCSIR, BUHS, idesHi and CNRS, Grenoble, France. MOUs have been in place with BAEC, BRACARDC and ICDDR,B.

### **Presentation of BS and MS Theses**

Thirty-two students defended their BS and MS theses under the different programmes of the Department.

### **BRACU Natural Sciences Club (BUNSC)**

BUNSC arranged a number of visits to research organizations and scientific institutions in Bangladesh. It also arranged fairs and topical seminars.

### **BRACU 10<sup>th</sup> Convocation and Chancellor's and Vice Chancellor's Medal**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Convocation of BRACU was held on 5 November 2015 at the Bangabandhu International Convention Centre. Mr. Feisal Bin Rashed and Ms. Mashiat Nawar Chowdhury, both of whom completed their post-graduation (MS) and graduation (BS) respectively in the Biotechnology programme, received the Chancellor's gold medals. Mr. Feisal Bin Rashed, Ms. Kashmery Khan and Ms. Mashiat Nawar Chowdhury from Biotechnology and Ms. Tazkera Haque from Physics received the Vice Chancellor's medals. Ms. Mashiat Nawar Chowdhury, who secured a CGPA of 3.99 out of 4, was also the Valedictorian at the Convocation.

### **Best Teacher Award**

Dr. Aparna Islam, Associate Professor received the "Best Teacher Award 2014" on 14 May 2015. Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, KCMG, gave away the award. Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor of BRACU, Professor Emeritus Md. Anisuzzaman, Members of the Board of Trustees, Syndicate, Academic Council, faculty members and other distinguished guests were present on the occasion.

### **New Appointments and Promotions**

Mr. Md. Saddam Hossain, Mr. Mahmud Hasan, Ms. Sharmin Akter, Mr A.H.M Mahbubur Rahman and Mr Abdul Quader joined as Lecturers in Mathematics; Ms. Trosparsha Tasnim Khan, Mr. Mohammad Anwar Siddique and Ms Najneen Jahan joined in Microbiology; and Ms. Shamira Tabrejée and Ms. Abira Khan joined in Biotechnology as Lecturers. Dr Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Assistant Professor of Statistics in MNS rejoined the Department. He was on leave working as an Assistant Professor at the Middle East College, Muscat, Oman, for three years. Dr. Md Jakir Hossen joined the department after completing his Ph.D. from Australian National University. Mr. Md. Arafatur Rahman and Ms. Ummul Khayer Fatema joined as Teaching Assistants for Mathematics. A number of faculty members of the MNS Department were also promoted to higher positions. They included: Dr Md. Rafiqul Islam, Ms. Mehnaz Karim, Ms. Sanjeeda Nazneen, Ms. Fahareen-Binta Mosharrat, Mr. Mohammad Mastak Al Amin, Ms. Sabrina Shahrin Sharna, Ms. Romana Siddique, Mr. Md. Asif Rahman, Ms. Chitra Das, Mr. Mohammad Hassan Murad, Mr. Rausan Atik Jewel, Mr. Md. Shohel Rana, Ms. Zubaida Marufee Islam, Ms. Namista Islam, Mr. Md. Akter Hossain and Ms. Sukriti Kundu.



### **Conferences/Workshops/Seminars/Symposia/ Meetings/Lectures**

#### **International Conference of Biotechnology in Health and Agriculture (ICBHA), 2nd GNOBB Conference 2015, 9-10 January, 2015**

GNOBB organized an International Conference in January, 2015 at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, DU. Ms. Anamika Datta, Teaching Assistant of Biotechnology, presented a poster titled "Attempts to develop transgenic tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) with the Na<sup>+</sup>/H<sup>+</sup> antiporter gene cloned from rice (*Oryza sativa*) which was co-authored with Dr. Aparna Islam, and others. Ms. Jebunnesa Chowdhury, presented a poster titled "An efficient *Agrobacterium* mediated transformation protocol for four tomato varieties" which was co-authored with Dr. Aparna Islam.

#### **Seminar Titled "Travelling Wave Solutions of Nonlinear Evolution Equation"**

Dr. Hasibun Naher, presented a seminar at the department on 16 January 2015. The seminar was titled "Travelling wave solutions of nonlinear evolution equation". She discussed the nonlinear evolution equations (NLEEs) and some analytical solutions of NLEEs via analytical method. She also explained the extension of  $(G / G)'$ -expansion method. Faculty members of MNS Department attended the seminar.

#### **Seminar Series of the HBRI to Celebrate Its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Ms. Moushumi Zahur, presented a talk entitled "Role of Public and Private Sectors for Housing of Middle-Income Group of Dhaka". The paper was jointly prepared by Dr. Ishrat Islam, Professor, BUET.

#### **Seminar Titled "Accidental Oil Pollution in the Sundarbans: Preparedness for Response to Ecological Disaster"**

A seminar organized by NOAMI on 31 January 2015 was held at the GSB. The keynote paper was presented by Professor Shahidul Islam, Ph.D. of the Department of Geography and Environment, DU. The seminar talk was followed by a lively question and answer session. Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad, Chairman, NOAMI, presided over the function and gave the concluding remarks.

#### **Seminar on "Delimitations of Maritime Boundaries of Bangladesh: Resources and Opportunities", Dhaka**

NOAMI organized a seminar on 14 February 2015 at the Auditorium of the GSB. Dr. Serajur Rahman Khan, DG of GSB was the keynote speaker. He elaborated on the judgements of the International Tribunal in respect of the maritime boundaries of Bangladesh, Myanmar and India. He emphasized the efforts to be made by Bangladesh to fully utilize the opportunities. The presentation was followed by an invigorating question and answer session. NOAMI members, researchers, scientists and other enthusiasts attended the seminar, which was presided over by Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad.

#### **-Conference Titled "Multidisciplinary Innovation in Business Engineering Science & Technology" (MI-BEST 2015) Manila, The Philippines**

Ms. Sharmina Hussain, attended the above mentioned conference. The main theme of this conference was "Integrating and Promoting Multidisciplinary Academic Research in Business Engineering Science & Technology to Meet the Challenges of Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries". Scientists and researchers from different countries participated in the conference. Ms. Hussain presented a research paper entitled "Thermal and Mass Diffusion along a Vertical Flat Plate with Non Uniform Heat and Mass Flux".

#### **Biosafety Regulatory Workshop**

SABP in collaboration with the DoE, GoB organized a workshop on 12 March 2015 at the Amari Hotel, Dhaka. The title of the event was "Stakeholder Consultation on Biosafety Regulatory Process". Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Dr. Aparna Islam attended the workshop. Dr. Andrew F. Roberts, SABP explained the process and transparency of the regulatory process while Dr. Joseph Huesing and Mr. Mitchell Nelson, USAID both talked about its importance. Later, Professor Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque, Coordinator, SABP and Mr. Mohammed Solaiman Haider, Deputy Director, DoE elaborated on the achievements of Bangladesh in this arena.

#### **Inaugural Ceremony of the "Eleventh Training Course on Oceanography: Principles and Applications", 2015**

NOAMI arranged the inaugural ceremony of the "Eleventh Training Course on Oceanography:



Principles and Applications" at the AECD auditorium. MOS&T, GOB has provided NOAMI with the financial assistance for the course. Architect Yeafesh Osman, State Minister for the MOS&T, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Vice-Chairman, NOAMI gave the welcome address. Rear Admiral (Retd) M.H. Khan, Founder Chairman and Chief Adviser, NOAMI; Professor A.A.Z Ahmad, Chairman, NOAMI and Dr. Abdur Rahim, General Secretary, NOAMI also addressed the audience and shared their thoughts.

#### **"Mouse Genetics, Models for Human Diseases" at ICGB**

Ms. Romana Siddique attended a training course which was held from 15 to 20 March, 2015 at ICGB, Italy. Scientists and researchers from different countries participated in the training course. This course gave an opportunity to be up-to-date with the latest advance in human disease genetics and created connectivity with the international research community.

#### **Annual Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology Conference 2014**

BAPTC&B organized the above mentioned Conference 2014 at the Department of Botany, DU on 28 March 2015. Dr Apama Islam attended the day-long conference. A poster entitled "Comparison of regeneration response of five tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) cultivars from Bangladesh" was presented. The research work was carried out with financial support of BAS-USDA Endowment fund and was carried out at the plant biotechnology lab of the MNS Department.

#### **Seminar titled "CFD Study of Fluid Dynamics, Heat Transfer and Mass Transfer along Vertical Flat Plate due to Double Diffusion"**

MNS Department arranged the above mentioned seminar conducted by Ms. Sharmina Hussain. The main theme of this seminar was to present her numerical findings of the flow behaviour, heat transfer and mass transfer pattern due to double diffusion.

#### **Seminar on Australian Government "Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships"**

The above-mentioned seminar was organized jointly by TLC and the MNS. The seminar was held on 7 April 2015 at the BRACU Auditorium. The key

objective of this seminar was to explore the opportunities for international study, research and professional development. Ms. Sazia Naqvi, Advisor (Education), Australian High Commission, New Delhi, India and Dr. Mahfuza Khan of BAEC, a former Endeavour Fellowship Awardee spoke on the scope and opportunities these scholarships and fellowships offered. The function was presided over by Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad.

#### **Visit of Kazan Federal University Team**

A team from Kazan Federal University of the Russian Federation visited BRACU on 16 April 2015. The visiting team comprised of Dr. Timur Madzhidov and Dr. Aydar Khusnutdinov of Kazan Federal University and Mr. Alexander P. Demin, Director of Russian Centre of Science and Culture and First Secretary of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Bangladesh. Professor A.A.Z Ahmad, led the BRACU team with Professor Sayeed Salam, Professor Haider Ali, Professor Tofazzal Hossain, Professor AKM Abdul Malek Azad and Dr. Khalilur Rahman. The meeting discussed various issues regarding future collaboration between Kazan Federal University and BRACU which would include exchange of faculty members and students, joint collaborative research in the fields of materials science, biotechnology, physics, engineering and other related fields.

#### **National Conference on Physics Research and Education**

BPS arranged a two-day conference at the AECD on 24-25 April, 2015. Professor A. M. Harun-ar Rashid, Former Professor of Physics, DU graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, and Eng. Md. Monirul Islam, Chairman BAEC were present as Special Guests. Professor Shamima K. Choudhury of the Department of Physics, DU, Vice-President of BPS; Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad, President, BPS; and Dr. Dilip Kumar Saha, General Secretary, BPS also spoke on the occasion. Over 200 papers including posters were presented at the conference. Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad chaired a technical session entitled 'Theoretical Physics'.

#### **Lectures at the "Eleventh Training Course on Oceanography: Principles and Applications"**

Professor A.A.Z Ahmad delivered lectures on the topics of Heat, Sound and Optics to the participants of the "Eleventh Training Course on Oceanography: Principles and Applications" on 10 June 2015 at the NOAMI office.



### **Seminar on "The Current Status of Golden Rice Research and Regulatory Issues"**

A seminar entitled "The Current Status of Golden Rice Research and Regulatory Issues" on 17 June 2015 was held at BRAC. The keynote paper was presented by Dr. Donald J. MacKenzie of IRRI, Manila, the Philippines. He talked about the field evaluation of many germplasms of golden rice in Bangladesh.

### **Seminar Titled "Nano Satellite Possibility in Bangladesh"**

MNS and BUNSC jointly arranged a seminar entitled "Nano Satellite Possibility in Bangladesh" on July 30 2015 at the GDLN Centre. The speaker of the seminar was Dr. Arifur R. Khan, Assistant Professor in the Laboratory of Spacecraft Environment Interaction Engineering, Kyushu Institute of Technology, Kitakyushu, Fukuoka, Japan. Dr. Khan has been carrying out research in the field of space environment and satellite charging mitigation.

### **Biosafety Core Committee Meeting**

Aparna Islam, Ph.D. participated in the Core Committee Meeting on "Development of Bio-safety Regulatory Process" held on 10 August 2015 at the DoE. The meeting was arranged by DoE and SABP. The whole process of the bio-safety application processing was discussed. The meeting suggested a few modifications for the smooth operation of the bio-safety applications.

### **Closing and Certificate Award Ceremony of the "Eleventh Training Course in Oceanography: Principles and Application"**

The Closing and Certificate Award Ceremony of the above mentioned training course was held on 17 August 2015 at the Auditorium of the AECD, Dhaka. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest at the function which was presided over by Professor A.A.Z. Ahmad, Chairman, NOAMI. The course comprising 98 lectures covered different aspects of oceanography. The twenty-one participants in the course went for sea and field trips as well. Thirty resource persons delivered the lectures. The welcome address was given by Dr. D.A. Quadir, Vice - Chairman of NOAMI. The ceremony ended with a vote of thanks from Professor M.A. Karim, Joint Secretary, NOAMI.

### **Meeting with Faculty Members of Nottingham University, Selangor Darul Ehsan Campus, Malaysia**

A team of faculty members from the above mentioned university met with Professor A.A.Z. Ahmad on 23 August, 2015. They were accompanied by Eva Rahman Kabir, Ph.D., Chairperson (current charge), Department of Pharmacy. Professor Ahmad introduced the visiting team with the activities of the MNS, specially the research work carried out in biotechnology and microbiology. Dr. Mahboob Hossain and Dr. Aparna Islam briefly described the on-going research under these two programmes. Professor Ahmad mulled over the possibilities of collaboration and cooperation between Nottingham University, Selangor Darul Ehsan Campus, Malaysia and BRACU.

### **Seminar Titled "Renewable Energy Transition-Now! Recent Advances in Technology, Applications, Financing and Policy"**

The above mentioned seminar was held on 25 August 2015 at the MNS. The speaker of the seminar was Professor Sajed Kamal of Brandeis University, Massachusetts, USA. He conceived and implemented the pioneering programme "A Photovoltaic Pilot programme for Bangladesh" (1989-1991). Dr. Kamal authored a number of books on renewable energy and sustainable development. The seminar started with some introductory remarks by Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad. Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor of BRACU was among others who attended the seminar.

### **Seminar on "Thunderstorms, Their Simulation and Relation to Climate Change in Bangladesh-Community Perception of Vulnerability"**

The above-mentioned seminar was held at the office of NOAMI on 12 September 2015. The keynote speaker of the seminar was Dr. Samarendra Karmakar, Project Director. The research project was funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology, GoB. Dr. Karmakar gave a detailed description of his study covering the whole gamut of thunderstorms and their genesis. The function was presided over by Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad, Chairman NOAMI and conducted by Professor Md Abdul Karim, Joint Secretary, NOAMI. Participants included NOAMI members and other interested researchers.



### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference and Workshop**

A five-member team of the MNS Department attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual South Asia Biosafety Conference and Workshop on 19-20 September 2015 held at the BRAC Centre Inn. Dr. Aparna Islam, Ms. Jebunnesa Chowdhury, Ms. Romana Siddique, Ms. Sadia Sayed and Ms. Anamika Datta, Dr. Zeba I. Seraj, Ms. Manzur-E-Mohsina Ferdous and Mr. Samsad Razzaque participated in this two-day long conference where they presented posters based on their research work.

### **Interview of Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad**

Mr. Salman Khan Promon, Teaching Assistant in the MNS, on behalf of Scientific Bangladesh took an interview of Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad on 23 September 2015. Among other pressing issues, Professor Ahmad in his interview stressed the importance of studies and research in the basic sciences, such as physics, chemistry, biology, etc. for socio-economic development of the country. He stressed particularly research not only in traditional fields but also emerging interdisciplinary fields.

### **International Conference on Applied and Engineering Mathematics (CAEM 2015)**

Dr. Hasibun Naher participated as an invited speaker in the above-mentioned conference. It was organized by the World Congress on Engineering and Technology (CET 2015) and co-sponsored by the Scientific Research Publishing from 23-25 October 2015 at Suzhou, China. Dr. Naher presented her invited talk entitled "New Generalized (G'/G)-Expansion Method to the Higher Dimensional Nonlinear Evolution Equation". Eight invited speakers including Dr. Hasibun Naher and many distinguished scholars and researchers participated in the conference from all over the world.

### **4<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Bengal Studies held in Tokyo University of Foreign Studies**

Ms. Moushumi Zahur, attended the above mentioned conference from 12-13 December 2015 in Tokyo, Japan. She presented a paper entitled "Inorganic Waste Recycling Activities: Role of Scavengers and Their Socio-Economic Condition at Dhaka City of Bangladesh". The co-author of her article was Professor Suehiro Otoma, Former Professor, Faculty of Environmental Engineering, University of Kitakyushu, Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka, Japan.

### **19<sup>th</sup> International Mathematics Conference, Dhaka**

In collaboration with BMS, MNS organized the above-mentioned conference from 18-20 December 2015 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Inaugural Ceremony of the conference was held on 18 December 2015 at BRAC Centre Inn. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, UGC was the Chief Guest while Professor Sajeda Banu, President BMS, was the Special Guest. The welcome address was delivered by Professor Munibar Rahman Chowdhury, formerly of DU, followed by an address by Professor Sajeda Banu. Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad, Chair of the Organizing Committee and Chairperson, MNS, presided over the ceremony which was attended by participants from both home and abroad. The invited speakers from abroad included Professor Michel Waldschmidt of Universite' Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris, France; Dr. Ding Liu of Xidian University, China; Dr. Binayak S. Chowdhury from Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Howrah; and Dr. Absos Ali Shaikh from the University of Burdwan, West Bengal, India.

In the technical sessions which were held from 18-20 December 2015, several research papers were presented on various aspects of mathematics and its applications. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka hosted a dinner at his residence on the evening of 18 December 2015. The closing ceremony of the conference was held on 20 December 2015 at the auditorium of BRACU. Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice-Chancellor, BRACU was the Chief Guest while Professor Md. Shahidul Islam, Secretary, BMS; Professor Michel Waldschmidt; Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad and Mr. Md. Maruf Ahmed, Conference Secretary spoke on the occasion.

### **11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mechanical Engineering (ICME 2015), BUET, Dhaka**

Ms. Fardousi Ara Begum participated in the above mentioned conference. It was organized by the Department of Mechanical Engineering, BUET, from 18 to 20 December 2015 at BUET. Ms. Fardousi Ara Begum presented her paper entitled "The study of the performance of a solar driven adsorption refrigeration chiller keeping chilled water outlet temperature fixed".

### **1<sup>st</sup> International Conference of BSM, Dhaka**

A twelve-member team attended the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference of BSM organized by the



BSM and Department of Microbiology, DU, which was held on 26-28 December 2015 at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, DU. Four faculty members and eight MS students participated in the conference.

Mohammad Amir Hossaina student of MS in biotechnology received the Best Poster Award in Conference. The poster title was "Study of the Antimicrobial Activities of the Bark Extract of *Cinnamomum verum* on Multidrug Resistant *Klebsiellapneumoniae* and *Enterobacter Agglomerans*". Mohammad Al Mahmud-Un-Nabi, a UG student of Microbiology programme contributed to this study. Asma Binte Afzal, Laboratory Officer, achieved a best poster award in the category of "Food" among 125 posters of Food, Health, Agriculture, and Industry and Environment categories. MS student Ms. Nahreen Mirza, BS students Ms. Mashiat Nawar, Ms. Tasmin Naila and Salaman Khan Promon also presented their posters.

#### **Study Tours & Visits**

##### **Visit of Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP)**

Fourteen students along with three faculty members of the Biotechnology and Microbiology programmes visited AFIP on 14 May 2015. They were shown how pathological specimens such as blood were cultured. There was practical demonstration of various tests for bacterial identification, interpretation of Western blotting results and ELISA for viral identification and many other relevant techniques. The team was led by Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain.

##### **Visit to BIRDEM**

30 students of the Biotechnology and Microbiology programmes visited BIRDEM Hospital on 11 June 2015. They were shown how pathological specimens such as urine, etc. were cultured. There was a practical demonstration on various tests for bacterial identification, and XENEXPERT for the very fast detection of tuberculosis. They were also shown human chromosomes of genetically disordered patients. Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain and Mr. Akter Hossain accompanied the students.

##### **Visit to National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory (NFDPL)**

A group of students from Biotechnology and Microbiology programmes visited the NFDPL with three faculty members namely, Ms. Abira Khan, Ms.

Sadia Sayed and Ms. Trosporsha Tasnim Khan on 8 August 2015. The students were given an informative briefing on the procedure of DNA finger printing and were shown around the different sections of the laboratory.

##### **Visit to Water Treatment Plant at Saidabad**

A group of 44 students from Biotechnology and Microbiology programmes visited the Water Treatment Plant at Saidabad with three faculty members, Ms. Zubaida Marufee Islam, Ms. Shamira Tabrejee and Mr. Akter Hossain on 12 November 2015. The team was given an informative briefing on different treatment processes.

#### **Obituarial Reference**

Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed passed away on January 23 2015. A condolence meeting was held at the MNS Department on 24 January 2015. Faculty members, staff members and students attended the condolence meeting to pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul. A letter of condolence to the bereaved family was sent from the Department.



#### **Panel Discussion: Faculty Orientation**

Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad took part in the panel discussion of the Faculty Orientation Programme on 30 April 2015. The discussion session was moderated by Professor Syed M. Hashemi, Chairperson, ESS. The Vice-Chancellor, the Pro-Vice Chancellor and other Chairpersons of various departments and freshly recruited faculty members attended the session.

##### **Visit of Microbiology, Biotechnology and Physics Labs**

A team from UGC visited the above-mentioned labs on 25 May 2015. Dr. Apama Islam, Dr. Mahboob Hossain and Mr. Muhammad Lutfur Rahman accompanied the team during their visit.

##### **Public Speech by the Honourable Prime Minister of India**

Dr. Apama Islam and Ms. Abira Khan attended the public speech by the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Damodardas Modi. The event



was jointly organized by DU and the Indian High Commission in Dhaka at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) on 7 June 2015. Shri Narendra Modi talked about various aspects of India-Bangladesh relations.

#### Discussion on Late Professor Dr. A. R. Khan

A discussion session was held at the Professor Mokarram Hossain Khandkar Building of DU on 12 June 2015. It was arranged by Anushondhitshu Chakra to discuss the life and works of Professor A. R. Khan, who had died in London a few days back. Professor Khan was not only an excellent teacher but was also a pioneer in the study of astronomy and astronomical observations in Bangladesh. Professor A. A. M. S. Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of DU was the Chief Guest. Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad talked about Professor A. R. Khan's work and his passion for astronomy and chess.

#### Discussion Session on the National Mourning Day

A discussion session for the National Mourning Day was arranged at BRACU on the morning of 15 August 2015. Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice-Chancellor, BRACU, Professor Mahbub Hossain, Chair, ESS, Professor A.A.Z. Ahmad, Chair, MNS spoke on the occasion which was attended by faculty members and administrative personnel.

#### Discussion Meeting with Professor Jessica M. Utts

Dr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Mr. Iftekhar Md. Shafiqul Kalam and Mr. Mohammad Mastak Al Amin joined in a discussion meeting with the President of the American Statistical Association (ASA), Professor Jessica M. Utts and Chair of the Department of Statistics at the University of California, Irvine, USA at BRAC Centre Inn on 30 December 2015. The discussion meeting was presided over by Professor Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Vice Chairperson, BRAC.

#### Publications

The faculty of the MNS have published a number of papers in their fields of expertise in reputed journals both at home and abroad. These are given below:

##### A. Papers Published in Journals

- 1) M. Karim, M. M. A. Amin. (2015). Comparison of Australian Socio-Economic Activity Between 2001 & 2006, *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Development: IJMRD* 2015; 2(3): 121-124, (P-ISSN: 2349-5979).

- 2) Mosharraf, B.F. (2015). "An Appraisal of Bacteriophages as Biocontrol Agent in Treating E.coli O157:H7 Mediated Experimental Gastroenteritis in Mice", *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Development: P-ISSN: 2349-5979, Volume 2 Issue 4*, pp 606-614.
- 3) Mahbub, R. (2015). From gender-not-an-issue to gender is the issue: the educational and migrational pathways of middle-class women moving from urban Bangladesh to Britain, online version of UK's journal of Gender and Education on 15th October
- 4) Hossain, S., Nayeem, J., & Podder, C. (2015). Effective Control Strategies on the Transmission Dynamics of a Vector-Borne Disease. *Open Journal of Modelling and Simulation*, 3(03), 111.
- 5) Hossain, M. S., & Podder, J. N. D. C. (2015). Effects of Migratory Population and Control Strategies on the Transmission Dynamics of Dengue Virus. *Journal of Applied Mathematics and Bioinformatics*, 5(4), 43.
- 6) Dey, S.K., Zahan, N., Afrose, S., Islam, T., Shajahan, M., Saha, S., Mahmud, S.A., Talukdar, A.A., Mizuguchi, M., Ushijima, H. (2014). Molecular epidemiology of HIV in Asia. *HIVAR*, 13(2), 33-39. (Review). doi.org/10.1016/j.hivar.2014.02.003
- 7) Rahman, M.H., Mahmud, J., Haque, M.M., Tuli, F.T., Jahan, N., Hasan, T.N., Ahmed, Z.U. (2013). Widespread occurrence of possible antibiotic efflux mechanism in multidrug resistant intestinal E. coli isolated from healthy human subjects in Bangladesh. *Bangladesh J Microbiol*, 30(2), 55-59.
- 8) Islam, M.R. (2015). Analysis of Japan's Economy (based on 2014) from Macroeconomics prospects. *International Journal of Scientific & Technology Research- IJSTR IJSTR*, Volume 4- Issue 2, page 214-218, February 2015 Edition - ISSN 2277-8616,
- 9) Hussain, S., Roy, N. C., Hossain, M. A., & Saha, S. C. (2015). Effect of Fluctuating Surface Heat and Mass Flux on Natural Convection Flow along a Vertical Flat Plate. *Mathematical Problems in Engineering*, 2015.
- 10) Unsteady Laminar Mixed Convection Boundary layer flow near a Vertical wedge due to Oscillations in the Free-stream and Surface temperature, *Applications and Applied Mathematics (AMM)*, Submitted and under review.



- 11) Heat and mass transfer response in MHD Natural convection flow due to oscillating surface temperature and concentration, Submitted to the "19<sup>th</sup> International Mathematics Conference" which was held on December 18-20, 2015, at MNS, BRACU.
- 12) Khan SM, Rayhana R, Hassan T, Rahman T, Rahman MM (2015). Study on electricity generation from municipal solid waste of Dhaka City International Journal of Engineering Research and Development, Volume 11, Issue 08
- 13) Bithi, S.S; Khan, M.M.R; Khan, A U and Hossain, M.M (Accepted in 2015) Drug Utilization study in urology units; Urological drugs prescribed out-patients in Dhaka, Bangladesh; International Journal Of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (Accepted; Oct 2015)
- 14) Bithi, S.S; Khan, M.M.R; Khan, A U and Hossain, M.M (Submitted in 2015) Evaluation of patients in Bangladesh: Peer J (USA): Submission Date: 22.08.15, Review Date: 10.14.15
- 15) Bithi, S.S; Khan, M.M.R; Khan, A U and Hossain, M.M. (Submitted in 2015). Assessment of prescription use by patient indicator & health facility indicators at rural & urban health facilities in Bangladesh; Journal of Young Pharmacist (India) Submission Date: 11.07.15, In-Review:
- 16) Bithi, S.S; Khan, M.M.R; Khan, A U and Hossain, M.M. (Submitted in 2015).. Polypharmacy in elderly: New challenges in BD based on Prescription from NICVD & Birdem & BSMMU. International journal of Pharmacy Practice. Submission Date: 04. 04.2015, revised date: 07.09.15 Re-review date: in-process
- 17) Submitted: Fahim Shafa, Mohammad Shahriar, F.A. Dain Md. Opo, Rumana Akhter, M. Mahboob Hossain and Nayyium Choudhury Characterization of Phytoconstituents, In vitro Antioxidant Activity and Pharmacological Investigation of the Root Extract of Typhonium trilobatum; "International Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research Submission : October 2015
- 18) Sanjeeda, N (2015). Formation of mixed quadrature rules by Cleanshaw-Curtis five point quadrature rule with another two well-known quadrature rules for numerical integration. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research, Vol.2, Issue 6, 206-209. e-ISSN: 2349-4182, p-ISSN: 2349-5979.
- 19) Sanjeeda, N. (2015). Two derivative free iterative methods for solving nonlinear equations. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research, Vol. 2, Issue 6, 322-326. e-ISSN: 2349-4182, p-ISSN: 2349-5979.
- 20) Zahur, M and Otoma, S (2015) Inorganic Waste Recycling Activities: Role of Scavengers and their Socio-Economic Condition at Dhaka City of Bangladesh, 4<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BENGAL STUDIES, 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2015, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo, Japan
- 21) Pant, N., Pradhan, N., & Murad, M. H. (2015). A class of relativistic anisotropic charged stellar models in isotropic coordinates. Astrophysics and Space Science, 355(1), 137-145.
- 22) Murad, M. H., & Fatema, S. (2015). Anisotropic charged stellar models in Generalized Tolman IV spacetime. The European Physical Journal Plus, 130(1), 1-19.
- 23) Bhar, P., Murad, M. H., & Pant, N. (2015). Relativistic anisotropic stellar models with Tolman VII spacetime. Astrophysics and Space Science, 359 (1), 1-9.
- 24) Murad, M. H., & Fatema, S. (2015). Some new Wyman-Leibovitz-Adler type static relativistic charged anisotropic fluid spheres compatible to self-bound stellar modeling. The European Physical Journal C, 75(11), 1-21.
- 25) Murad, M. H. (2016). Some analytical models of anisotropic strange stars. Astrophysics and Space Science, 361(1), 1-13.
- 26) Naher, H. (2015). New approach of (G'/G)-expansion method and new approach of generalized (G'/G)-expansion method for ZKBBM equation. Journal of the Egyptian Mathematical Society, 23 (1), 42-48.
- 27) Naher, H., & Begum, F. A. (2015). Application of Linear ODE as Auxiliary Equation to the Nonlinear Evolution Equation. American Journal of Applied Mathematics and Statistics, 3(1), 23-28..
- 28) Naher, H., Abdullah, F. A., & Bekir, A. (2015). Some new traveling wave solutions of the modified Benjamin-Bona-Mahony equation via the improved (G'/G)-expansion method. New Trends in Mathematical Sciences, 3(1), 78-89.
- 29) Siddique, R. (2015). Impact of different media and genotypes in improving anther culture response in rice (*Oryza sativa*) in Bangladesh. European Scientific Journal, 11(6).

- 30) Mosharraf, F. B., Ahsan, C. R., Nessa, J., & Yasmin, M. (2015). Exploring the best possible route of infection of Verotoxin producing *Escherichia coli* in development of experimental gastroenteritis among streptomycin treated murine model. *Journal of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences*, 39(1), 53-58.
- 31) Mosharraf, B.F. (2015). "An appraisal of Bacteriophages as Biocontrol Agent in Treating *E.coli* O157:H7 Mediated Experimental Gastroenteritis in Mice", *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development*: P-ISSN: 2349-5979, Volume 2, Issue 4, pp 606-614. (Indexed : SCRIID, IF 3.67)
- 32) Mosharraf FB., Ahsan CR., Nessa J., Yasmin M. (2015). The effect of verotoxin producing *Escherichia coli* in development of experimental gastroenteritis among streptomycin treated murine model: a longitudinal study." *Bangladesh Journal Of Microbiology*, ISSN: 1011-9981, Volume 31, January-June 2015.
- 33) Rana, M.S. (2015). An Alternative Method of Estimation of SUR Model. *American Journal of Theoretical and Applied Statistics*, Vol. 4, No. 3, 2015, pp. 150-155. Apr. 24, 2015.
- 34) H. Naher, (2015). New generalized (G'/G)-expansion method to the higher dimensional nonlinear evolution equation, 2015 Int. Conference on Applied and Engineering Mathematics (CAEM 2015), CET Organizing Committee, Youngor Central Hotel, Suzhou, China, 23 October - 25 October, 2015.
- 35) Hasan, M; Khan, A. R; Ghosh, N and Uddin, M.S. (2015). On Development of Algorithm to Design Layout in Facility Layout Planning Problems. *Journal of Physical Sciences*, Vol. 20, (2015), 35-42, Vidyasagar University, India.
- 36) Hasan, M; Hossain, S and Uddin, M.S. (2015). Sustainable way of choosing effective electronic devices using modified TOPSIS METHOD. 19th International Mathematics Conference, 18-20, December 2015, BRACU, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 37) Quader, A. and Alam, M. M (2015). Numerical solution of free convective heat and mass transfer MHD flow through a porous plate in a rotating system with Hall current and heat flux in the presence of thermal diffusion. 19th International Mathematics Conference, 18-20, December, 2015, BRACU, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 38) H. Naher. (2015). Algorithms and Some New Traveling Wave Solutions via New Extension of (G'/G)-expansion Method of Coupled Nonlinear Equations, *British Journal of Mathematics & Computer Science*, 11(6): 1-13.

#### **B. Conference Proceedings/Invited Talks/Abstracts**

- 1) CFD study of fluid dynamics, heat transfer and mass transfer along vertical flat plate due to double diffusio, April 2, 2015, MNS, BRACU.
- 2) Multidisciplinary Innovation in Business Engineering Science & Technology (MI-BEST 2015- February 25-26, 2015) Manila, Philippines.
- 3) Travelling Wave Solutions of Nonlinear Evolution Equation, Seminar Room, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, BRACU, Bangladesh, January 16, 2015.
- 4) International Conference of Biotechnology in Health and Agriculture (ICBHA) 2015 held on January 9-10, 2015, at Dhaka, Bangladesh; entitled "Attempts to develop transgenic tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) with the Na<sup>+</sup>/H<sup>+</sup> antiporter gene cloned from rice (*Oryza sativa*)".



## Department of Pharmacy



Pharmacy is a noble profession which deals with alleviating human sufferings caused by various diseases. It is an applied science of developing and dispensing medications from natural and synthetic sources which also optimizes the physical, chemical, biological and pharmacological action of drugs. Our programme offers an outstanding degree to start a career as a pharmacist by providing professional knowledge, skills and research opportunities which also sets a platform for young pharmacists to perform and compete in the global arena.

### Our Vision

To inspire our students towards high standards and innovative thoughts for the betterment of the pharmaceutical sector as well as of mankind.

### Our Mission

To develop and nurture competent students who will become leaders and innovators in pharmaceutical education, research, development and practice.

### Programme

Currently, the Department of Pharmacy (PHR) is offering Bachelor of Pharmacy (B.Pharm) degree for students. The curriculum in BRACU is designed to introduce the students to the technological and scientific principles underlying the preparation of dosage forms and drug delivery systems and their use in patient care. B. Pharm. is a four-year integrated course which is divided into eight consecutive semesters and accredited by

Bangladesh Pharmacy Council. With more than 15 faculty members and many renowned guest faculty members from their respective field, PHR, BRACU started their journey in 2010 offering courses in physiology, pharmacognosy, pharmacology, pharmaceutical technology, biopharmaceutics and pharmacokinetics, clinical pharmacy, medicinal chemistry, etc. The department also has five modern laboratories to demonstrate laboratory work and conduct advanced research.

### Faculty Overview

The faculty members of the PHR graduated from reputed public and private universities of Bangladesh with advanced degrees from world-wide renowned universities. They are involved in the research areas of pharmaceutical technology, pharmacology, epidemiology, pharmaceutical marketing, environmental toxicology and phytochemistry.

### Educational and Other Activities

#### A. Industrial Visits

Sixteen students along with the faculty members of the PHR, BRACU went on an industrial visit on 30 April 2015 to Jirabo plant of Incepta Pharmaceuticals Limited.

In October 2015, the PHR organized a two-day long industrial visit to the manufacturing plant of Sanofi Bangladesh Ltd. and Beximco Pharmaceutical Ltd.

The visits mainly focused on the production facilities of these manufacturing plants and the steps and



initiatives of the manufacturers in the quality control of medicines with a consideration on the physical, chemical and microbiological products on the pharmaceutical products. Furthermore, they also went through the facilities available on warehouse management and its importance in the delivery of quality medicines in the market.

The purpose of organizing these visits was to provide students with hands-on experiences about the industrial work and manufacturing process at pharmaceuticals.

### **B. In-plant Training**

As a part of the B.Pharm curriculum, students had undergone in-plant training at Sanofi Bangladesh Ltd. and Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd. In-plant trainings are designed to expose students to designing, formulating, and manufacturing different pharmaceutical dosage forms, pharmaceutical packaging, quality control and compliances.

### **C. Seminars**

The PHR organized a seminar on 'Key Performance and Competency Indicators for a Pharmaceutical Industry' on 10 May 2015 at BRACU auditorium. Mr. Muin Uddin Mazumder, Director Industrial Affairs, Sanofi Bangladesh Ltd was the speaker at the seminar. He gave an overview of the pharmaceutical industry and briefly described the functions and the organizational structure as well as roles and responsibilities of manufacturing, quality and support functions of the various sectors of the industry.

Another seminar was organized by the PHR, BRACU on 12 August 2015 at BRACU Auditorium titled "Molecular Chaperones, Ionizing Radiation and Cancer" that focused on the developments in the area of cancer research. The seminar was conducted by Dr. Ayesha Murshid, Instructor, Department of Radiation Oncology, Harvard Medical School.

In collaboration with Research Interface for Students of Biosciences (RISBS), the PHR, BRACU organized a seminar on the topic "Bioinformatics and Life Sciences" on 23 August 2015 at BRACU Auditorium. The key speakers in the seminar were: Dr. Cheiw Foan Chin, Associate Professor and Dr. Sandy Hwei-San Loh, Professor and Director of Biotechnology Research Centre, School of Bioscience, Faculty of Science, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. Dr. Lim Yin Sze,

Associate Professor, School of Biosciences, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus, Dr. Shafi M. Tareq, Professor, School of Biosciences, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus and Dr. Tofazzal Islam, Professor, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agriculture University were also present.

The PHR organized a workshop on Quality Control in the Pharmaceutical Industry followed by an on-campus interview on Sunday, 8 November 2015. Dr. Quamrul Ahsan, Senior Director, Quality Control, Incepta Bioscience, Mr. Shaheen Khan, Vice President, Quality, Incepta Bioscience and Md. Zakir Khan, HR Manager, Incepta Bioscience were the speakers at the workshop. They focused mainly on the role of quality control in the pharmaceutical industry. Quality Control and Regulatory Compliance are the major challenges for ensuring a smooth healthcare infrastructure and are the key to avoiding deviation from the current global standards for manufacturing medicines.

Samin Huq, Teaching Assistant, PHR, BRACU participated in the 61st IPSF World Congress, Hyderabad, India and 75th FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science at Dusseldorf, Germany. These were organized by the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation & Indian Pharmaceutical Association-Students Forum and International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) & Federal Union of German Associations of Pharmacists (ABDA), respectively. The PHR is extremely thankful to Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd. for their sponsorship of these prestigious global events.

### **D. Training**

In the month of October 2015, two faculty members of the PHR, Ridwan Islam, Senior Lecturer and Monica Sharfin Rahman, Lecturer, took part in the 58<sup>th</sup> training programme of NITUB on the use, maintenance and trouble-shooting of High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). The training was coordinated by Professor Altaf Hussain, General Secretary, Network of Instrument Technical Personnel and User Scientists of Bangladesh (NITUB) at the Center for Advanced Research in Sciences (CARS), University of Dhaka.

Eva Rahman Kabir, Ph.D. Chairperson (Current Charge), PHR, BRACU, was invited as a panel speaker of the training programme (11 November 2015) titled 'Training on Roles, Responsibilities and



Ethical Principles of University Teachers'. It was jointly organized by Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and Teaching & Learning Centre (TLC), BRACU under the auspices of the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP). In the panel discussion she discussed about the ethical principles of university teachers.

Students from the PHR had the privilege of attending a three-day workshop at BYLC (Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center) sponsored by Unimed & Unihealth Pharmaceuticals Ltd. The purpose of the workshop was to teach the students about leadership and implementation of leadership skills.

#### **E. Awareness Campaign**

Two awareness programmes were arranged simultaneously in the PHR on 'Diabetes' and 'Hepatitis B' on 12 November 2015. The prime aim of holding awareness programmes on 'Diabetes' was to promote the 'World Diabetes Day' held on 14 November 2015. The campaign continued for a

whole month and was arranged by the BRACU Pharma Society (BUPS). BUPS arranged various promotional tools such as, posters, leaflets and badges which were distributed to create awareness about diabetes. A small booth was also arranged for that day, where a presentation on 'Diabetes' was given throughout the day. The other awareness programme on 'Hepatitis B' was held in parallel. It was arranged by the Department in cooperation with BUPS. Leaflets on Hepatitis B were distributed for promoting awareness as well.

In the month of Ramadan, some of the students of the PHR took an initiative to spread the happiness of Eid among the poor.

#### **F. Annual Picnic**

PHR in association with BUPS organized Annual Picnic 2015, on 11 April 2015 at Shilpe Kunjo, Chandra, Savar, Dhaka. Later, a buzzing cultural event took place which served as a source of refreshment, inspiration and motivation for innovation in our future work.



Inspiring Excellence

## **INSTITUTES**

BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED)  
BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD)  
BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL)



## BRAC Institute of Educational Development

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BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED) works through capacity development, research and advocacy to develop education in Bangladesh from multiple angles. In particular, BIED focuses on: supporting the public sector through capacity development and textbook support; developing school models for quality education and large-scale educational research; as well as advocating in the areas of Early Childhood Development (ECD), emotional wellbeing and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) through training and research. BIED partners with various public and private sector organisations to achieve these goals.

### **Achievements:**

- BIED continues to successfully build the capacity of government officers and other professionals through its Masters Programmes and short courses.
- BIED is working with the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) to refine national textbooks.
- BIED's affiliation with non-profit organizations, educational and research institutions enables exploration into the multi-facets of education from a holistic perspective, such as the physical and emotional well-being of young people and various types of unique capacity-building initiatives.

### **Academic Programmes:**

BIED has a multi-pronged approach to its mission. BIED runs two academic programmes, the Masters of Education (MEd)/Post-Graduate Diploma (PGD) in Educational Leadership & School Improvement as well as the Master of Science (MSc)/PGD in early childhood development. BIED also runs short courses for government officials who share our

vision of bringing positive changes to classroom teaching, learning and management.

### **Ongoing Initiatives:**

- Developing and piloting the BRAC Nobodhara Schools as a fee-paying model of quality education in Bangladesh
- Developing and piloting models to provide young people with support for SRHR, gender and emotional well-being through various collaborations
- Research into emerging areas of early childhood development and advocating on childcare
- Initiatives to improve worker well-being in the garments industry
- Large-scale educational research in Bangladesh

### **Early Childhood Development (ECD)**

The effect of play and creative arts on children at the early stages of their learning is an important investment which brings the greatest return related to a child's development. In this regard, the early childhood development (ECD) team of BIED has taken important steps and undertaken activities through projects, research and academia.

- The ECD team is operating a few projects that aim to incorporate play and creative arts for child development. The objectives of the project 'Building Blocks Early Years Play Learning Centres' is to stimulate a change in the early year's education in Bangladesh with a greater role for learning and therapy through play and creative arts. In 2015, the project established 50 play centres in 7 geographical areas. One hundred Play Facilitators of these play centres have received basic training and two refresher



courses. 15 field implementation staff have also received 3 days basic training in June and 2 days management training in August. Further, the team has engaged in designing play-based curriculum for 3-4 year old children, survey of site, facilitators, children and play centres and monitoring and evaluation formats.

- The ECD department embarked on two new projects in 2015. Firstly, the 'BRAC Play Lab Project', which is focused on promoting learning through play, was signed and approved in 2015. High level officials visited to confirm the partnership and discuss its objectives with BIED. The official launch and implementation of activities are scheduled in 2016. In addition, the 'Niche Child Care Project' was approved, which essentially involves implementation of activities to improve child care services and professionals.
- As a research institute, large-scale educational research initiatives are an inherent component of BIED. With a new angle on understanding deeper aspects of overall well-being, BIED has completed research on maternal mental health: 'Community-Based Psychosocial Intervention Reduces Maternal Depression and Improves Infant Development in Bangladesh: A Randomized Control Trial' with ongoing work on the report. In 2015, BIED conducted a pilot study with BRAC Education Programme to explore the effects of a centre-based Comprehensive Child Development Programme (CCDP) on Early Child Development at Community Level in rural Bangladesh. Data from the research is currently being processed. Furthermore, 2015 also included baseline data collection of the study 'The Effect of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) programme on children's holistic development and reduction of child-maltreatment practice in rural Bangladesh', jointly implemented with the BRAC Health and Education Programme.
- The Master of Science in Early Childhood Development (ECD), offered by BIED, is the first Masters of its kind in Bangladesh. It offers options to end the programme with a Certificate, Diploma or Master's thesis. Developed in conjunction with Columbia University, USA, the programme looks to create a greater number of professionals in the ECD field in Bangladesh. 2015 saw the 6<sup>th</sup> batch working on their theses and the 7<sup>th</sup> batch continuing the post-graduate diploma. In December, twenty-one new students enrolled

for the Master programme and have commenced their certificate level courses.

#### **Master/Post-Graduate Diploma in Educational Planning, Leadership and Management**

- On 6 January, 23 Teach for Bangladesh (TFB) fellows started the MEd. course, initiating the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of TFB fellows taking this course. The 4<sup>th</sup> batch of students taking the MEd. course in the evening also began. Most of the students are English medium school teachers from Scholastica, Sunbeams, Australian International School, Aga Khan School, etc. Two of the international students are Turkish, teaching at the Turkish Hope School.
- 27 students graduated at the 10<sup>th</sup> BRACU convocation on 5 November from where 19 graduated with an MEd. and 8 graduated with a PGD. Two MEd. students received the Vice Chancellor's medal during the convocation. Ten students of the 1<sup>st</sup> batch of TFB students completed their course work in October 2015, where Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor, facilitated a full day class during their course on research methodology.

#### **BRAC Nobodhara Schools**

BRAC Nobodhara Schools (BNS), located in Bonosree and Uttara, completed their second year of operations in 2015. This year, grades 4 and 7 were introduced, meaning that the schools had classes ranging from Early Learning Center 1 (ELC1, aged 3+), Early Learning Center 2 (ELC2, aged 4+), pre-primary, grades 1-4 and grades 6-7. English-version classes were also introduced for ELC1 (aged 3+), ELC2 (aged 4+) and pre-primary. Various festivals and fairs took place on both campuses throughout the year. These were the International Mother Language Day and Martyr's Day, Pohela Baishakh celebrations, Independence Day celebrations, Science Fair, Agriculture Fair, Art Festival, Earth Day and respective class parties. Field trips were organized to the Mirpur Zoo for students from ELC to Pre-primary and to the National Museum for students from grades one to seven. The Bissho Shahitto Kendro provided books to the students of grades six and seven and awards to 11 students. The Campaign of Popular Education (CAMPE), Bangladesh organized a training course where participants from different organizations came to observe the ELC classes of the BNS Bonosree campus. Parent-teacher evenings were also organized. Since March 2014, psychosocial counsellors are providing support at BRAC



Nobodhara School for the students as well as parents and teachers as they needed external support to ensure their emotional well-being. Psychosocial counsellors in both schools provided classroom and home management for more than thirty students in 2015. They also provided counselling services to the parents who numbered more than forty. Counsellors were also involved in student assessment during admission period of the children. Additionally, some research activities were conducted which included developing school monitoring indicators and studying parental perception of the school's effectiveness.

### **Collaboration with NCTB**

The textbook refinement initiative with the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) started in 2013, where BIED worked to refine the Social Studies, Bangla and English textbooks for grades 1-3 as well as the Teacher's Guide and Teacher's Edition. Additionally, a critical review has been conducted, by means of a large scale research with data collected from 30 schools nationwide in order to explore and find out areas of gap and improvement. The current initiatives include completion of the review report by the first quarter of 2016. Initial drafts of the review indicate a need for refinement of textbooks for Grades 3, 4 and 5 of all four religions taught as well as content for Teacher's Guide and Edition which BIED has undertaken.

### **Promoting Physical and Emotional Wellbeing**

Schooling, SRHR, Gender and Counselling of Adolescents in Post-Primary Education (SSCOPE): This was the flagship pilot project of BIED since 2012 which was successfully completed in 2015. It was a new school model that studied dynamics and alternative educational methods. The first of these school designs, entitled SSCOPe, is a low-cost junior-secondary education school model that explores how general education including a life-long learning approach on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights & Gender (SRHRG) and psychosocial support can be provided to outreach and underprivileged adolescents through the collaborative efforts of students, parents, teachers and the frontline counsellors known as Shomaj Shongees (SS). The 1100 students participated in the Junior Certificate Exams (JSC) with 92% completion rate; the success of the project has encouraged stakeholders to initiate relevant holistic educational models for young people's well-being and development.

*Transgender Youth Project:* In the month of September 2015, BIED took an initiative to facilitate a training programme on "Psychosocial Well-being and Skill Development of Transgender Youths" in Bangladesh collaboratively with Somporker Noya Setu (SNS). The project is being funded by Share-Net International. 75 transgender youth have already received the training from the targeted 200 all over Bangladesh. Research on this has also been undertaken.

*Certificate Course Development:* A short certificate course on "Psychosocial Support in SRHRG" has been developed that helps in understanding the basics of psychosocial skills as well as sexual and reproductive health rights and gender. The course is targeted at participants of 18 years and above with at least a graduate degree or higher secondary education. It is designed as a 12-day training/course which is taught in three phases.

*Capacity building with UBR & STAR:* BIED in collaboration with the alliances of Unite for Body Rights (UBR), has facilitated training on frontline counselling course for teachers and frontline counsellors in UBR-run schools. It has also collaborated with the Skills Development Programme STAR of BRAC on Basic Communication Skills, Adolescent Abuse, Stress Management and Anger Management to the peer leaders who later conducted sessions to the adolescents under this programme. An additional training on "Basic Communication Skills" and "Adolescent Abuse" was provided to 100 field staff of Skill Development Programme of BRAC for sensitization.

*Disaster Management and Climate Change (DMCC):* In the month of April 2014, BIED and DMCC planned collaborative support to 456 victims of the Rana Plaza tragedy. At the end of 2015 the implementation began. The project beneficiaries will get psychosocial, livelihood and medical support divisionally. According to the project objective BIED psychosocial counsellors are providing psychosocial support through group counselling, family counselling and individual counselling sessions. 26 beneficiaries received group counselling sessions in December 2015.

### **Collaborative & Independent Researches**

- *Urban Adolescents Needs Assessment Survey in Bangladesh:* This survey has been undertaken by BIED in collaboration with Population Council. This study was part of a



broader needs assessment exercise that tried to identify important areas of intervention for urban adolescents in Bangladesh. The goal of the study was to describe adolescent lives in the domains of education, work, social life, and interpersonal relationships. The study also assessed the learning/educational, psychological, social, emotional, skill development, vulnerabilities, and reproductive and sexual health needs, experiences, views, attitudes, and desires of adolescent girls and boys in Bangladesh. The report has been finalized and disseminated through a seminar and is currently in press for printing.

- **Issues with families and children in a disaster context:** This study, undertaken by BIED, analyzed the specific aspects of vulnerability of children (birth to eight years) and their families in natural disasters and their resilience and preparedness in natural disaster contexts of rural Bangladesh. It has been published in the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction in September 2015.
- **Child Labour and Education in Informal Settlements in Dhaka City:** A survey is being conducted by BIED, BRACU in collaboration with Overseas Development Institute (ODI), UK, and Understanding Children Work (UCW), to understand the interface between child labour and education in informal settlements in Dhaka. To date, 4,500 households have been surveyed and 2,700 children aged 6-14 have been interviewed.
- **Evaluation of SSCOPE Programme of BIED:** This report will highlight the findings of the base-line, mid-line, and end-line surveys of one of BIED's experimental projects titled "Schooling, SRHRG (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Gender) and Counselling of Post-Primary Education (SSCOPE)". The overall objective of these surveys was to construct a baseline of the information of adolescents on key indicators intervention as well as to document changes in those indicators due to the intervention. The data collection for this report has been completed and the report itself is expected to be completed by March 2016.
- **Research on Effectiveness of Shomaj Shongees (SS):** The Shomaj Shongee (SS) model was introduced at SSCOPE schools in 2012 to deliver sessions on sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender (SRHRG), in mediation with psychosocial counselling. This

research will look into the effectiveness of this model. By collecting data from stakeholders such as students, parents, SS, teachers, and field officers from four different SSCOPE schools, the research will explore what kinds of transformations students have gone through, and how they have benefitted in terms of education and maintaining relationships with peers and parents. The research will also highlight the importance of school-based counselling in lower-income school models. The data collection phase of this research is complete, and the research itself will be completed by March, 2016.

- **Research on Effectiveness of the Creative Arts programme (CAP):** This research is going to look into how, by addressing power relations in the classroom, CAP has enabled a space for critical thinking, dialogue and self-reflexivity in the SSCOPE centres. The data for this research has already been collected and the research itself will be completed in March 2016.
- **Review of BIED:** In 2015, Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) conducted a review of BIED. This report provides findings and recommendations from a review of the BIED. The review focused on three elements of IED's work - capacity building, research and advocacy. For each element it identified current achievements and made recommendations for further activities.

#### **Research Publications (for the year 2015):**

Akhter, S.A., Sarkar, R.K., Dutta, M., Khanom, R., Akter, N., Chowdhury, M. R., Sultan, M. (2015). Issues with families and children in a disaster context: A qualitative perspective from rural Bangladesh. International Journal of Disaster Risk Management, 13, 313-323.

Amin, S. (ed.) 2015. Urban adolescents need assessment survey in Bangladesh. Dhaka: BIED, BRACU and Population Council.

#### **Notable Event**

**Centre for Psychosocial Well-being and SRHRG:** An opening programme for the beginning of 'Centre for Psychosocial Well-being and SRHRG' was organized by BIED on 6 October 2015. BIED invited some renowned guest speakers from National Institute of Mental Health, Dhaka University and Ministry of Education to speak on this occasion. The theme of the programme was 'Dialogue on Dignity for Psychosocial well-being and SRHRG of children and adolescents in Bangladesh'.



## BRAC Institute of Governance and Development

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As a leading centre of research and academic excellence, the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) at BRACU is devoted to generating knowledge through independent research on the entire range of governance concerns as they relate to development, while also conducting research on an array of development issues to inform public debate and influence policy solutions with innovative suggestions, centered mainly on Bangladesh.

In 2013, BRACU's Board of Trustees (BoT) merged the former Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) and BRAC Development Institute (BDI) into BIGD. The aim was to transform the Institute into a regional centre of robust research on governance and development issues, provide a platform for academics, researchers and practitioners to come together and raise critical questions; make a better and unified Institute as governance and development are interrelated; provide lessons on good practices; and advocate pro-poor policies.

During 2015, the Institute continued to shape a wide variety of policy debates on a diverse set of governance and development related areas i.e. governance, economic growth, political economy, urbanization, gender issues and sustainable development. While BIGD continues to welcome researchers, scholars and practitioners from a variety of fields, it is increasingly shifting its concentration to the intersection of governance and development, and not policy and economics alone.

For BIGD, the concept of governance is best defined as the sum total of the institutions and processes by which society orders and conducts its

collective or common affairs. BIGD is now concentrating on understanding the political and social determinants of policy making in Bangladesh rather than devising technical solutions to policy issues only.

As the attached list will attest, BIGD researchers remained important and productive in their areas throughout 2015. BIGD continued to encourage publication in a variety of genres: newspaper articles/Op-Eds, research reports, working papers and academic journals. It has tried to remain true to its original mandate of combining academic and research excellence with policy engagement through specialized post-graduate courses, cutting-edge research initiatives and policy recommendations.

### Academics

BIGD currently offers post-graduate education to government officials, executives from different industries, NGOs, the media and civil society.

In 2015, BIGD guided 84 post-graduate students through its Masters programmes and 43 graduates with diplomas, advanced diplomas, professional diplomas, certificate courses and training.

**Master of Arts in Governance and Development (MAGD):** BIGD's nationally recognized MAGD programme exclusively provides government officials of Bangladesh with the opportunity to enhance their capacity, so that they can serve as advocates and catalytic agents of change. It is a one year fully residential scholarship programme funded by BRAC. In 2015, 6 students received the MAGD certificates. The 7<sup>th</sup> Batch of the MAGD started in 2015 at BRAC Centre for Development



Management (BCDM), Savar, with 19 different public sector officials, including 4 public officials from Afghanistan and Myanmar.

**Master of Development Studies (MDS):** BIGD offers MDS, an innovative, cross-disciplinary postgraduate master's degree that provides an in-depth understanding of development concepts and issues in the context of globalisation, economic transformation and social, cultural and political changes.

The MDS programme currently has a total of 133 students. 32 students received their MDS degrees in 2015.

**Master in Development Management and Practice (MDMP):** MDMP, a professional Master's degree in Development Management and Practice was developed by BIGD in 2009 and launched in January 2011. MDMP was conceptualized by Professor Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, renowned development economist and Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, USA. It belongs to a Global Network of Masters in Development Practice Programme comprising 22 universities around the world. Currently 22 students are enrolled in the programme, and 2 students received the MDMP degree in 2015.

**Master in Procurement and Supply Management (MPSM):** BIGD has developed a top-up Master programme on Procurement and Supply Management in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS), which is a UK-based international organization, serving the procurement and supply profession. In total, 78 students are currently attending the MPSM programme. 44 participants completed MPSM in 2015.

**CIPS-UK Qualification In Procurement & Supply:** CIPS has partnered with BIGD to deliver the CIPS qualifications programme at Level 4 (Diploma in Procurement and Supply), Level 5 (Advanced Diploma in Procurement and Supply) and Level 6 (Professional Diploma in Procurement and Supply) in Bangladesh. Successful completion of all the levels leads towards the MCIPS certification.

In 2015, 106 students from both public and private sectors enrolled and 37 participants completed the MCIPS degree, and currently 52 and 20 participants from public and private sectors respectively are attending different levels of CIPS. Also, 35 participants received Diploma, Advanced Diploma &

Professional Diploma degrees in 2015.

**CIPS Study and Exam Centre:** BIGD is the first registered study and exam centre for CIPS qualification in Procurement and Supply Management in the Asia region since 2009.

**Certificate Courses and Trainings:** Several custom-made professional training and short/certificate courses are also offered by the Institute to cater to growing and diverse local as well as regional need.

**Environmental Management and Governance (EMG):** BIGD jointly offers a Certificate Programme on EMG with the Centre for Natural Resource Studies of the University of Manitoba, Canada. The purpose of the certificate programme is to sensitize and enhance the capacity of participants on key environmental governance issues related to natural resources and environment management. In 2015, 8 students received certificates on EMG.

**Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR):** BIGD offers a three-month postgraduate certificate course titled MLARR to government officials, private sector land developers and development practitioners to design, implement and develop resettlement and rehabilitation strategies based on best global practices. So far, 86 participants have successfully completed the course in seven batches.

## Research

An important aspect of the Institute's core mission is to carry out research on a range of governance and development issues centered mainly on Bangladesh, and advocacy of the evidence-based research outcomes to policy-makers, public officials, media and civil society groups. BIGD has been publishing, since 2006 and 2012 respectively, the State of Governance in Bangladesh and the State of Cities reports. It also publishes working papers, policy briefs, policy notes, research reports and books on governance, development and public policy.

In 2014, a strategic research agenda was developed to conduct multidisciplinary research and guide its activities over next five years. BIGD's research mandate is spread over four broad clusters; 1. Politics, Governance and Democracy, 2. Urban, Climate Change and Environment, 3. Gender Studies, and 4. Economic Growth.



## Ongoing Research

### Governance and Politics (GP)

#### The State of Governance in Bangladesh

BIGD's annual flagship research 'The State of Governance in Bangladesh (SoG)' is a major task under the GP cluster that aims at examining the current situation of the country in terms of governance quality. This research specifically aims to study important policy decisions, public institutions and public issues from a 'governance' perspective and provide thorough and systematic diagnosis of the situation. This analytical work allows the Institute to compare, assess and document changes over time. Since 2006, 8 SoG reports have been published.

**Research on Local Governance:** Besides SoG, GP cluster has also been undertaking research titled 'Accountability of the transferred departments at the Upazila level: implications for resource allocation and utilization mechanisms', 'A study on public finance and revenue mobilization of Union Parishad (UP)s which examines the current status and associated challenges regarding UPs' finance including resource (revenue) collection, mobilization and expenditure, local government association study, etc.

Additionally, the cluster also intends to publish working papers on refugees, migration, social accountability, democratic governance and efficiency in the judiciary of Bangladesh.

#### Urban, Climate Change and Environment Cluster (UCCE)

##### State of Cities

The UCCE cluster carries out BIGD's annual flagship research 'State of Cities (SoC)', which aims to provide a diagnostic report of the country's urban governance. Since 2011, four reports have been published based on urban governance issues of three metropolitan cities: Dhaka, Narayanganj and Chittagong. In 2015, it focused on the solid waste management of Dhaka city. For 2016, the SoC report is likely to focus on traffic congestion, which is one of the most important challenges faced by Dhaka city in terms of livability of the city.

In 2016, the UCCE cluster plans to publish a number of working papers and journal articles on (a) governance of urban recreational facilities in Dhaka city: expectation and reality; (b) 3R strategy: towards effective solid waste governance; (c)

management of commercial waste (kitchen market); (d) urban governance: the road to decentralization; (e) domestic waste management. Currently, the UCCE cluster is conducting long term planning in a collaborative effort to transform this cluster as a centre.

**Gender Studies (GS):** The Gender Studies cluster currently focuses on the following research topics: 1. Choice, Constraints and the Gender Dynamics of Labor Markets in Bangladesh; 2. Gender Norms, Labor Supply and Poverty Reduction in Comparative Contexts: Evidence from Rural India and Bangladesh; 3. Evidence-based Foundation of Women's Economic Empowerment, along with UNDP and UN Women Bangladesh, to develop and implement a joint five-year programme on women's economic empowerment based on a foundation of evidence and analysis, where the research areas covers (a) Gender-based macroeconomic analysis and a demographic summary of women in Bangladesh; (b) Social institutions analysis of the influence of social institution on women's economic opportunities and constraints; (c) Opportunities analysis of policies that would positively influence women's economic empowerment; 4. Enhancing Gender Equality Results in South Asia Developing Member Countries, along with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to develop the next Bangladesh Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) in 2015, which includes urban development including governance, water supply and sanitation, and primary and environmental health (including waste management), transport especially mobility and gender-related aspects of infrastructure development (national rural and urban roads, railways and ports) and transport services, energy (incl. rural electrification and renewable energy), education (with emphasis on vocational education, skills development and tertiary education); 5. Political Settlement and Health Sector Dynamics in Bangladesh, 6. Impact Evaluation of the DFID programme: Accelerate Improved Nutrition for the Extreme Poor in Bangladesh.

**Economic Growth (EG):** Economic Growth Cluster is currently undertaking research projects on social accountability and public procurement. Besides, the cluster also concentrates on conducting its key research for the Institute's flagship publications: SoG and SoC. Also, in 2016, the cluster is committed to carrying out a number of working papers in multi-disciplinary fields, having both macroeconomic and applied microeconomic dimensions.



These research areas include natural resources, income inequality, energy consumption and oil price shocks, citizen engagements in public procurement, credit constraint, managerial characteristics in bureaucracy, the formal and informal labor nexus and growth, privatization and productivity growth, and financial inclusion.

In addition, GS and GP clusters have jointly been focusing on research entitled States Delivering for Poor People: Improving Outcomes Through Stronger Evidence.

### Programmes

**Local Governance Programme SHARIQUE-III:** Sharique-III is an SDC funded consortium project on local governance and development. The consortium is comprised of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and BIGD. As consortium partner, BIGD has project management responsibility. In addition, BIGD has technical responsibility to conduct action and policy research on local governance in Bangladesh and to prepare briefs to influence policy. The programme aims to contribute to the empowerment of local citizens to make and implement inclusive, gender-sensitive, and pro-poor collective choices about their lives and livelihoods through more democratic, transparent, inclusive, and effective local government systems.

**Community of Practice in Performance Management In South Asia :** BIGD, in cooperation with the World Bank and the Government of Bangladesh, has been implementing a project entitled 'Community of Practice (CoP) on Performance Management in South Asia' to help strengthen the performance management system of the Governments (GPMS) of South Asia Regional (SAR) countries. To facilitate the implementation of GPMS, necessary support was extended to the Cabinet Division. The project aims to promote peer learning and evaluation amongst practitioners of performance management in South Asian Regional (SAR) countries, as a common practice to further enhance the quality of policy dialogue, and subsequent delivery of public services.

**Public Procurement Reform Project (Extension Phase):** BIGD has an agreement with Bangladesh Government (Central Procurement Technical Unit - CPTU) to help design and implement the social accountability mechanism that aims to institutionalize and develop a third party monitoring system in the public procurement process in the country. Based on the lessons learned from Phase

II of the project, and in consultation with CPTU and the World Bank, BIGD has reformulated the existing Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC). BIGD is responsible for ensuring effective functioning of the committee so that it can provide policy inputs to strengthen the public procurement systems of the country.

**NUFFIC Capacity Building for Promoting Governance:** The NUFFIC funded 'Capacity Building for Promoting Governance' project is a joint collaboration of BIGD and Bangladesh Public Administration and Training Centre (BPATC) in partnership with MDF, ISS-EUR, CIS-VU in the Netherlands. The project ended in September, 2015.

**The Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST):** BIGD houses a specialized centre: The Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST), established in 2012, that undertakes research and advocacy work on women's empowerment and how positive changes in everyday lives and larger social transformation in gender roles take place. Many of the research projects and advocacy programmes of the Gender Studies cluster are undertaken by this centre.

**Policy Engagement and Research Communication:** BIGD Communications Department, in association with the research clusters, regularly organizes roundtables, talks, seminars, workshops, meetings and conferences in order to disseminate its research outputs and publications among the relevant stakeholders and target groups within the network for policy influence and engagement. To disseminate knowledge and establish professional relationships, the department considers policy engagement networking to be a key tool. BIGD networking is divided into two categories: professional research collaborations, which is developed from various programmes and projects; and long-term institutional links with other research and policy institutions which ensure sustained interaction.

### BIGD hosts IGC in Bangladesh

The Institute also hosts the International Growth Centre (IGC) of London School of Economics and University of Oxford. This affiliation provides an opportunity for the Institute to collaborate on research projects and open itself to a wider research community regionally and internationally. In 2015, BIGD has organized a number of seminars, workshops and conferences jointly with IGC.



## Highlights

### The Launching of State of Governance in Bangladesh 2014-15 report

The State of Governance in Bangladesh (SoG) 2014-15 entitled Institutions Outcomes Accountability was launched in December, 2015 at the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka.

The report sheds light on governance-related KPIs, covering electoral process, legislative productivity, media freedom, rule of law, financial institutions, infrastructure and macroeconomic stability, as well as education and health sector performance.

### Launching of the State of Cities (SoC) report

BIGD launched its annual flagship research SoC 2015 report titled 'Solid Waste Management in Dhaka City - Towards Decentralised Governance' in November 2015. The ceremony also served as a platform for experts and practitioners to discuss the current state of solid waste management in Dhaka city.

### BIGD-IGC Seminar on Development Economics held

BIGD and the International Growth Centre (IGC) jointly organized a seminar on Development Economics in December 2015 in Dhaka. Mr. A H M Mustafa Kamal, Planning Minister, inaugurated the seminar as the Chief Guest and Dr. Atiur Rahman, Governor, Bangladesh Bank attended the first session of the event. The seminar brought together policy stakeholders and researchers from all around the globe with the aim of showcasing IGC research, and sharing ideas, experiences and best practices for achieving sustainable growth in Bangladesh.

National Seminar on Social Accountability Mechanisms in the UP held BIGD and HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Bangladesh co-organized a national seminar on Social Accountability Mechanisms in the UPs in May 2015.

### Launching of Human Development Report 2015

The 18<sup>th</sup> Human Development Report of South Asia, prepared by Mahbub UI Haq Human Development Centre, entitled 'The Economy and the People' was launched by BIGD in Dhaka in December 2015.

### Live TV Programme on National Television

BIGD, in collaboration with TV Channel i, organized

two interactive live programmes entitled 'Teleshomoy on municipal elections and how the newly introduced election system would affect/influence women's participation in politics', and 'women representation in Upazilla Parishad', respectively. The programmes were aired in June and November 2015.

### Seminars, Talks & Lectures

BIGD organized 5 seminars in 2015 entitled: a. Seminar on Migration; b. IGC-BIGD Seminar on Development Economics; c. Seminar on Low-level Governance in Dhaka d. Seminar on Performance Management of the Public Service Commission and Information Commission of Bangladesh; e. National Seminar on Social Accountability Mechanisms in the Union Parishads and two talks entitled; a. 'Talk by International Grassroots Activists on Palestine Perspectives, b. A talk on 'Grassroots Urbanism: A critical investigation into Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in Dhaka's Bustee Settlements'.

In 2015, BIGD also organized two lectures on a. Technology Adoption in Developing Countries by Dr. Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak, Professor of Economics, Yale School of Management of Yale University, USA, and b. Public lecture on Security Governance for Conflict Prevention by Professor Tatsuo Yamane, Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation (IDEC), Hiroshima University, Japan.

### Workshops and Meetings

BIGD organized 7 workshops in 2015 on: a. Internal Women Migration in Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges; b. Workshop on Labor Markets and Growth c. Stakeholders Consultation on e-Governance and Project Cycle Management Courses; d. Exploring Unpaid Work of Women: Barriers, Implications and Opportunities; d. End-line Planning of Impact Evaluation of the DFID programme; e. Design Team Meeting-Workshop; f. Good Governance of Financial and Office Management.

Besides these, BIGD arranged 8 high level meetings entitled; 'Opinion Sharing Meeting with Local Government Associations Representatives', 'Opinion-sharing Meeting with representatives from Upazila and Union Parishads of Sunamganj', 'Advisory Group meeting of Public Procurement Reform Project', 'Promotion of Women's Participation in 2016 Union Parishad Elections', 'National advisory committee meeting of local governance programme' and 'Meeting with NGOs on Interventions to Support Women's Participation in UP Elections'.



## Roundtable Discussions

BIGD organized two roundtable discussions on a. Effectiveness of Policy Advocacy: Lessons Learnt, and b. Urbanisation Challenges: Formulating a Research agenda for Policy Action.

## Conference/ Workshop proceedings

1. Minhaj Mahmud Ph.D., Head of Research, BIGD presented a paper titled 'Religion, Minority Status and Trust: Evidence from a field experiment' at Hayami Conference (January 2015) in Development Economics, GRIPS, Tokyo jointly with G. Gupta, P. Maitra, S Mitra and A Neelim. He was also a panel discussant at the conference.
2. Minhaj Mahmud presented a paper entitled 'Natural Disaster and Risk Sharing Behavior: Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh' at World Meeting of the Economic Science Association, organized by University Technology Sydney in July 2015.
3. Minhaj Mahmud presented a paper entitled 'Formal Informal Labor nexus and Growth' with Italo Gutierrez, Krishna Kumar, Farzana Munshi, Shanthi Nataraj at IZA/DFID GLM-LIC Research Conference on New Research on Labour Markets in Low-Income Countries, held at World Bank, Washington DC in October 2015.
4. Moreover, Minhaj Mahmud presented a paper entitled 'The impact of sectoral demand on informality: evidence from Bangladesh' jointly with Prodyumna Goutam, Italo Gutierrez, Krishna Kumar, Farzana Munshi, Shanthi Nataraj at IZA Conference on Labor Markets in South Asia, Dhaka, in December 2015.
5. Minhaj Mahmud with S Dietrich & M Winters presented a paper titled "Foreign Aid, Foreign Policy, and Domestic Government Legitimacy: Survey Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh" at ISA workshop on foreign aid and government legitimacy, Georgetown University, Washington DC, in April 2015
6. Minhaj Mahmud with A. Neelim presented a paper entitled "Free Provision and Demand for Health Products: evidence from follow-up of a randomized controlled trial in Bangladesh" at Australasian Development Economics Workshop, Monash University, Melbourne, in June 2015
7. Minhaj Mahmud with Y Sawada presented a paper entitled "Infrastructure and Well-being: Employment Effects of Jamuna Bridge in Bangladesh" at a workshop on "Poor Economics in Tokyo", University of Tokyo, Japan, in August 2015
8. Sohela Nazneen Ph.D., Adjunct Fellow, BIGD chaired and presented a paper at the University of East Anglia's (UEA) International Conference titled 'Gender Relations and Rising Inequalities' in July,

2015. Dr. Nazneen presented a paper entitled 'What drives gender equity in Bangladesh: the case of the Domestic Violence Act' in the second session of the conference.

9. Simeen Mahmud, Head (Ad interim), Gender Cluster & CGST, BIGD and Lopita Huq, Research Fellow, BIGD jointly presented a paper on 'Women in poverty: capability and well-being' at the Conference which implicates different experiences of poverty of men and women within and beyond the household levels and also emphasized understanding how 'social norms' impose constraints on women's choice and agency regardless of poverty, organised by the General Economic Division (GED) of Planning Commission of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Bank and Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), held at the Planning Commission Campus in Dhaka in April 2015.

## Publications

### Books

1. BIGD. (2015). The State of Governance: Institutions Outcomes Accountability. Dhaka, Bangladesh: BIGD, BRACU.
2. BIGD. (2015). State of Cities: Solid Waste Management in Dhaka City-Towards Decentralised Governance. Dhaka, Bangladesh: BIGD, BRACU.
3. Yunus, M., & Rahman, S.H. (2015). Municipal Finances in Bangladesh: Untapped Potential or White Elephant. Dhaka, Bangladesh: BIGD, BRACU.
4. Ahmed, T. (2015). Bangladesh: Reform Agenda for Local Governance. Dhaka, Bangladesh: BIGD, BRACU and Prothoma Publications.

### Journal Articles

1. Ullah, K.M. & Mansourian, A. (2015). Evaluation of Land Suitability for urban land use planning: Case Study Dhaka City. Transactions in GIS. 20: 20-37, John Wiley & Sons.
2. Zakaria, S.M. (2015). Arab Spring and Middle East Democratisation: Issues and Challenges. In: Christopher Lamont, Frank Gaenssmantel, and Jan van der Harst (eds.), Non-Western Encounters with Democratization: Imagining Democracy after the Arab Spring. Surrey: Ashgate.
3. Najnin N., Arman S., Abedin J., Unicomb L., Levine D. L., Mahmud, M., Leder K., Yeasmin F., Luoto J.E., Albert, J., & Luby, S.P. (2015). Explaining low rates of sustained use of siphon



water filter: evidence from follow-up of a randomised controlled trial in Bangladesh. *Tropical Medicine & International Health*. 20(4).

### Working Papers

1. Mannan S., Harun-Or-Rashid Md., Stanislawski J., & Khan N.A.. (2015, July). Realpolitik: Democratic Embeddedness within Major Political Parties in Bangladesh. Working Paper Series, 25. Dhaka, Bangladesh: BIGD, BRACU.
2. Rahman, S.H., & Mukhopadhyay, H.. (2015, September). Economic Growth, Poverty and Inequality Revisited. Working Paper Series, 26. Dhaka, Bangladesh: BIGD, BRACU.
3. Ahmed, T., Harun-Or-Rashid, Md., Ahmmed, K.N., & Razzaque, F.. (2015, September). Social Accountability Mechanism: A Study on the Union Parishads in Bangladesh. Working Paper Series, 27. Dhaka, Bangladesh: BIGD, BRACU.
4. Arafat S.M.G.B.. (2015, October). Sea Level Rise and Coastal flooding in Urban Areas: Study on Chittagong City Corporation. Working Paper Series, 28. Dhaka, Bangladesh: BIGD, BRACU.
5. Hossain Md. S.. (2015, September). Development and Human Security in Asia: An Analysis from Human Rights and Cultural Relativism Point of View. Working Paper Series, 29. Dhaka, Bangladesh: BIGD, BRACU.
6. Abdallah W., Khan M.W.R., & Prabhu J.. (2015, November). Factors Influencing the Performance of a Public Private Partnership in the Digital Services Sector: Evidence from Bangladesh. Working Paper Series, 30. Dhaka, Bangladesh: BIGD, BRACU.
7. Zaman N.. (2015 November). Towards Sustainable Development Goals: Indexing the performance of Bangladesh (division-wise and district-wise) in achieving the MDGs. Working Paper Series, 31. Dhaka, Bangladesh: BIGD, BRACU.

Articles/Op-Eds: In 2015, BIGD Staff published 24 newspaper articles and Op-Eds in national mainstream newspapers.

## BRAC Institute of Languages



2015 marked a milestone for BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) as it completed 10 years of its journey. Celebrations marking this achievement took place on 2 November 2015 at the city's Atrium Restaurant at Progoti Sarani. Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Director, BIL, the faculty members and staff of BIL took part enthusiastically in the festivities.

From its humble beginnings as the English Language Programme (EL-Pro) in 2006, BIL has been reinvented twice to finally become the Institute it is today. A product of the aspirations, vision, dedication and innovation of its pioneer and Director, Lady Abed and her team, the Institute has made substantial achievements teaching English language courses to undergraduate students, academic English to graduate students, and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) to professionals.

BIL aims to assist students to develop the language skills they need to be successful in graduate school and in their professional lives. The institute focuses on implementing student-centred, creative language teaching techniques by developing modules based on students' proficiency levels. This not only eliminates the possibility of mixed ability classes, but also ensures small classes with excellent interaction between teachers and learners.

Additionally, BIL is committed to the field of academic language teaching and research, with a clear focus on creative and forward-thinking teaching methodology for diverse learners groups.

### MA in TESOL

Since its inception in January 2013, two batches of students have graduated from the MA in TESOL programme. In 2015, 5 TESOL students successfully defended their theses to earn their MA in TESOL degree. The students presented their defence to a panel of experts and scholars in the field of TESOL on 13 April 2015, namely, Dr. Tazin Aziz Chaudhury, Professor, Department of English, DU; Dr. Sayeedur Rahman, TESOL Coordinator, BIL; Professor Hamidur Rahman, Head of the English Department, State University of Bangladesh; and Professor Hamidul Haque, Head of the English Department, American International University-Bangladesh.

Student	Thesis Title
Jenia Rahman	Suitability of Current English Language Teaching Materials for International Maritime Academy Students
Nehal Bin Hasan	Divergent Thinking, A Tool Used in English Speaking Classes to Improve Oral Fluency: A Study on Private University Students at Undergraduate Level in Bangladesh
Tanjia Afrin Turin	Reasons behind Using L1 at Primary Level in English Classes of Bangladeshi English Medium Schools
Md. Mahadhi Hasan	Motivational Strategies for Teaching English Language Skills: A Study of Tertiary Level Teachers
Mohammad Rejaul Karim	Supporting Students Improve Their Academic Writing through Online Collaboration



## Awards and Achievements

### Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed appointed the 'Global Ethics Fellow'

Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Director, BIL, was appointed 'Global Ethics Fellow' of the Carnegie Council for three years, 2015-2018. As part of her responsibilities she will host events, such as lectures, seminars, panel discussions or workshops at her home institution exploring the ethical dimensions of issues related to international affairs. The Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs is a New York City-based public charity noted for serving international affairs professionals, teachers and students, and the discerning public.

### Mohammad Golam Jamil completed Ph.D. degree

Mohammad Golam Jamil obtained his Doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of Southampton, UK and has rejoined BRACU as Assistant Professor, BIL, Assistant Director, BRACU Professional Development Centre and Head of BRACU Writing Centre.

The title of his thesis is 'Technology Enhanced Teacher-Learning in Rural Bangladesh: A Critical Realist Inquiry with Secondary Teachers of English' which can be accessed via <http://eprints.soton.ac.uk/383975/>. Dr. Jamil is a Worldwide Universities Network visiting researcher at Penn State University in USA.

### Mr. Golam Kader Zilany returns from study leave

Golam Kader Zilany, Lecturer, BIL, resumed office from 4 May 2015 after completing his MA in Curriculum Pedagogy and Assessment from UCL Institute of Education, London. His area of interest was to explore the purpose of education for an equal and just society. In the programme, he was required to conduct a research for his dissertation through which he explored the purposes of education in reference to educational experiences of 14-16 year old ethnic Bangladeshi students in East London. The study argues that the contemporary top down flow of curriculum directives overlooks individuals' social necessities and triggers symbolic racial violence. The UCL examination board has acknowledged this study as a unique contribution to respective knowledge domain and has awarded it with an A (distinction) grade.

### Mr. Md. Shams Ud Duha at Indiana University under Fulbright Programme

Md. Shams Ud Duha, Lecturer, BIL, is currently at

Indiana University, Bloomington, USA, under the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) programme, funded by the US Department of State. He is teaching Bengali language and culture to American students and studying English Language Teaching and Linguistics.

Since his orientation at the Michigan State University in August, Mr. Duha has taken part in a number of programmes to showcase Bengali language and culture at his host institute.

His published books (an anthology of poems, two novels and two edited books) were displayed at the student involvement fair in August and one of his television dramas 'Ekti telephone ebong tarpor' was screened there as well. He has written 12 dramas for various prominent channels in Bangladesh, including two mega serials.

In September, as a member of United States Chess Federation (USCF), he took part in Indiana State Team Chess Championship on behalf of Indiana University Chess Club and became champion.

In October, a short film, "Pistachio Milk", produced by Mr. Duha was screened at the inauguration programme of world language festival in Indiana University. The film had earlier won the best student film award in Austin Film Festival in 2013. Mr. Duha conducted two language workshops in the festival and won the social media award at the festival.

## Workshops and Conferences

### Pedagogic Workshop on Learning and Teaching

Ms. Mehetaz Chowdhury, Lecturer, BIL, participated in a three-day pedagogic workshop entitled "Innovation in Learning and Teaching" from 8-10 March 2015. The workshop was organized by Continuing Education Programme (CEP), JGSPH, BRACU, and funded by USAID's The Next Generation Public Health experts Project (NGPHEP). The workshop was conducted by Dr. Tessa Dunseath, Executive Director of Michigan State University, Dubai. The workshop aimed at discussing and executing several innovative and widely used teaching and learning methodologies.

### Paper published in conference proceeding

Papers by two faculty members of BIL were published in January 2015 in the proceedings of the Inspire DEWS International Conference 2014. The papers were 'Pen beyond the Drawing Board' by Ms. Mehetaz Chowdhury and 'An Innovation in the Existing Teaching System: Using Wiki in Teaching



Writing' by Mr. Md. Abdullah-Al Mamun. The conference, held in November, 2014, was arranged under the tripartite collaboration of Department of English, Dhaka University, the British Council, Bangladesh and the University of Manchester, UK.

#### **Paper presented in the international conference "Language, Literature & Community"**

Mr. Debashismoy Dutta and Mr. Prabal Das Gupta, faculty members of BIL, presented a paper titled "Importance of Multi-Stakeholder Needs Analysis to Develop LSP Module: Migrant Workers' Module in Perspective" at the conference 'Language, Literature & Community' an international event organized by the Department of English & Humanities, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) from 10-11 July 2015. The paper reviews and reflects on the needs analysis conducted by the presenters to develop a trade-specific Language for Specific Purposes (LSP) module for prospective migrant workers, incorporating English-Bangla-Arabic, with particular emphasis on the role of all stakeholders during the needs analysis process, which will ultimately result in an LSP module pertinent to cater for the language needs of the migrant workers.

#### **Faculty Development Workshops**

##### **Workshops by Beth Trudell**

During the first week of March, Ms. Beth Trudell, English Language Consultant, BIL, conducted a series of workshops for the faculty members of BIL. The first in the series was a workshop on the concept of 'Flipping the Classroom' which aimed to familiarize BIL faculty with the theory and pedagogy of this new teaching methodology that reforms the traditional classroom format.

Ms. Trudell also conducted a series of additional workshops for new faculty to help them further adapt to the teaching and learning practices of BIL. The workshops were: "Facilitation Skills", "Peer Feedback", "Responding to Students' Writing" and "Critical Thinking".

##### **Workshop for the new faculty members**

To assist the new faculty members get familiarized with the teaching and learning practices of BIL, senior faculty members also conducted workshops for them. Ms. Nazneen Zafar, Lecturer, BIL, conducted a workshop titled 'How to Teach Topic Sentences and Thesis Statements' on 5 March 2015. The workshop attempted to assist the participants

replenish their theoretical base and bridge the gaps between their prior knowledge and practical implementation of the theories. Additionally, as BIL strives towards uniformity of instructions to ensure concentrated output as collaborative learning, this workshop added a vantage point for new faculty.

Ms. Liza Reshmin, Senior Lecturer and Academic Coordinator, BIL, conducted the workshops entitled "Facilitation Skills" and "Responding to Students' Writing" in May, during the summer semester. During the session on "Facilitation Skills", the presenter discussed the various functions that an instructor in a language class is required to perform in order to facilitate a student-centred learning. This was followed by the session on "Responding to Students' Writing". The participants and the presenter discussed the factors that constitute effective feedback and the benefits that can be reaped from providing feedback.

##### **Workshop for BIL faculty members**

During the fall semester in 2015, a series of workshops was conducted by senior faculty members of BIL. Mr. Farid Ahmed conducted a workshop titled "Collaborate on Documents over the Internet". The objective of the workshop was to acquaint BIL faculty with the functions and format of Google docs and how this facility can be used effectively to practice collaborative writing using ICT. Ms. Nipa Nasrin and Mr. Farid Ahmed conducted a workshop on "Prewriting", discussing ideas about prewriting practices and pedagogy. Ms. Nazneen Zafar and Mr. Farid Ahmed conducted a workshop on "Observation Tools for Professional Development" to review and reflect on the tools that are used during observations done to enhance professional skills.

##### **Journal Club**

From March 2015, a monthly reading circle, entitled "Journal Club" was initiated by BIL faculty to further enhance the practice and habit of reading and discussing academic articles. Every month, an academic article is chosen and two faculty members, termed 'readers', study the article and share the content and idea with other faculty members. During the session, the ideas advocated by the selected article are shared, critically appraised and then analyzed contextually. The readers and the attendees also share their experiences and discuss the possible implementations of these ideas into their own courses.



Session	Date	Readers	Article
1	19 March 2015	Ms. Adrita Mulk Mr. Kushal Das	Instructional Enhancements to Improve Students' Reading Abilities
2	16 April 2015	Ms. Sunjida Afrin Khan Ms. Mehetaz Chowdhury	Tutorials: Way of building Community in the Classroom
3	21 May 2015	Ms. Farina Haque Mr. Kazi Mafizur Rahman	Entrepreneurship and Student Motivation
4	25 June 2015	Ms. Effat Hyder Mr. Mizanur Rahman	Using Anecdotes in Language Classroom
5	30 July 2015	Mr. Shams Ud Duha Mr. Shuvo Saha	Improving Student Peer Feedback
6	19 August 2015	Ms. Naznin Zafar Ms. Taslima Alam	Students' Perception on the Use of Humor in Teaching of English as a Second Language in Nigeria
7	17 September 2015	Mr. Jerry Cornelius Cardoza Mr. Md. Julhas Uddin	Two Writing Activities for Extensive Reading
8	15 October 2015	Ms. Sharmin Rahmatullah Mr. Abdullah Al Mamun	Use of Technology in English Language Teaching and Learning: An Analysis
9	3 December 2015	Ms. Sharifa Chowdhury Mr. Md. Raisul Islam Chowdhury	Engaging students as tutors, trainers, and leaders

## Working with Students

### BRACU students receive scholarship to study in China

Three BRACU students have received the Chinese Government Scholarship to study in China after completing the Chinese language course offered by BIL. These three scholarship winners are: Md. Anamul Sarder, who got accepted at the Yunnan University for the Chinese Language and Culture for South Asian Teaching programme; Tonjil Mahmud, who will be studying Computer Science and Engineering at the Tongji University; and Aminur Rahman, who got admission at the University of International Business and Economics to study International Economics and Trade.

### Training students to perform workshops

A group of BIL faculty members, in association with BRACU Communication and Language Club (BUCLC), have taken an initiative to train some students on how to conduct a workshop. During the semester of Summer 2015, ten students of undergraduate studies were trained on the dos and don'ts of conducting a workshop. As part of the training, the students were first required to read an article on the topic of their workshop. Next, they

designed activities which they considered to be engaging and effective. Finally, they conducted the self-designed workshop. BIL faculty member, Ms. Farina Haque, guided the students throughout the process and was also present during the workshops.

## Reaching out to the society

### Certificate awarding ceremony of ESP for Development Professionals (Education) course

Fourteen participants of the 36<sup>th</sup> batch of the ESP for Development Professionals (Education) programme were awarded certificate upon successfully completing their course during a ceremony organized on 9 November 2015 at BRAC DevPro Centre. The programme was hosted by Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, one of the recent graduates of the course. In addition, two other participants, Mr. Debasish Das and Ms Nasrin Ara Begum, reflected on their learning and experiences during the course. Mr Masum Billah, Programme Manager of BRAC Education Programme (PACE) was present as the chief guest. He congratulated the participants and advised them to utilize their learning in facing the challenges they might encounter in their future endeavours. Mr. Md. Mahamud Hasan, Programme Manager of BRAC Education Programme (LAMP) and Mr. Mohammad Aminul Islam, Senior Lecturer of BIL, offered similar words of wisdom. Also present on the occasion were Mr. ABM Mostofa Karim, Learning Manager of BRAC, Mr. Mahabubul Islam, Mr. Asek Amin Miraj and Mr. Md. Abu Sufian, faculty members of BIL. The programme ended with the distribution of the certificates among the successful participants.

### 38<sup>th</sup> batch of DevPro at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park

The participants of the 38<sup>th</sup> batch of ESP for Development Professionals (Education) course went on a trip to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park, Gazipur, on 20 December 2016. This exercise was designed to afford the participants an opportunity to develop team spirit, which is important for both classroom activity and in professional life. Sixteen participants were accompanied by two faculty members of BIL, Md. Abu Sufian and Md. Akteruzzaman. In addition, they also visited BRAC Centre for Development and Management (BCDM) at Rajendrapur, where they learned about different training facilities and activities of BCDM.

## Highlights

### Book Reading Conference 2015

Ms. Nishat Sharmin and Mr. Farid Ahmed, faculty members of BIL, attended the 3rd Readers Development Conference organized by the British Council on 28 November 2015. Also present on the occasion was Matt Pusey, Deputy Country Director, British Council, Bangladesh.

In the conference, Ms. Sharmin and Mr. Ahmed presented on the Pre-University programme of BRACU- its process, learning goals and outcomes. Furthermore, they shared their experience of running the Book Reading Competition as part of the Pre-university programme with the assembly present at the conference. During the feedback session the concerns experienced by the participants and suggestions for improvements for the competition were also addressed. At the end of the conference, BRACU received a crest from the British Council for running the Book Reading Competition programme successfully since its inception in 2012.

### BIL-facilitated English course for visually impaired learners

BIL signed an MoU with Sightsavers, an international NGO, to train a group of 20 visually impaired learners from Sightsaver's partner organization, Bangladesh Visually Impaired People's Society (BIVPS), as part of the project titled 'Inclusive: Barrier Free Inclusive Society for Persons with Disabilities'. This project was co-financed by European Union and Sightsavers. The two-month customized course for the project started on 29 March 2015.

The course particularly aimed to develop the English language skills of people with communication disabilities due to visual impairment to better equip them as individuals for the mainstream job sector, which has a growing demand for effective English communication. With this training, the participants are expected to gain accessibility and inclusion in society and thus overcome the obstacles imposed by their disability.

### Teacher training in collaboration with Save the Children

From 5-9 July 2015 BIL faculty members, Mr. Mohammad Aminul Islam, Mr. Mohammad Golam Mohiuddin and Mr. Mohammad Mahbubul Islam facilitated a five-day long teachers' training session

at the Upazilla Resource Centre (URC), Meherpur. The training session, entitled "Infusion of ICT in Education, Teachers' Training on English Basic Pedagogy", was organized by Save the Children. English teachers of 26 government primary schools of Meherpur district participated in this training.

The participants were very enthusiastic and highly motivated to receive the training, especially since it is the first of its kind in Bangladesh. The training session introduced the use of ICT and digital contents (based on the English for Today textbooks by NCTB) in teaching and learning English at the primary level.

As part of the project, BIL has developed both a 'Teachers' Training' manual and 'Training of the Trainers' (ToT) manual to introduce digital contents in ICT mediated classrooms of English in Bangladesh. As part of the module development process, a threefold training programme was conducted in August, organized by Save the Children. The first two segments of the training were designed to develop a pool of trainers and primary school teachers in Kushtia and in Meherpur, and the third session was a workshop with the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) and Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) in Dhaka.

From 9-13 August 2015, the five-day long training of trainers (ToT) session, titled 'Infusion of ICT in Education: Training of Trainers (ToT) on English Basic Pedagogy and Using Audio Visual Material' was conducted at the Primary Teachers' Training Institute (PTI), Kushtia. The training session was facilitated by Mr. Aminul Islam, Mr. Golam Mohiuddin and Mr. Mahbubul Islam, faculty members of BIL. The participants for this session were assistant teachers and head teachers of government primary schools, instructors of Upazilla Resource Centres (URC) and PTI, Kushtia. During the sessions, the facilitators obtained feedback and comments for further development of the module by sharing the training manuals with participants.

The second phase of the training programme was a five-day long teacher training at Upazilla Resource Centre (URC), Sadar, Meherpur, held from 16-20 August 2015. Also conducted by the BIL faculty members, the participants for this session were 25 teachers of government primary schools of Meherpur district. The objective of the session was to give the participants hands-on training on how to use digital content in English classes with basic pedagogy of teaching and learning.





Inspiring Excellence





Inspiring Excellence

## **CENTRES**

Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER)  
Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED)  
Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) Centre  
Teaching and Learning Centre  
Writing Centre



## Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research



The Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) was founded by the BoT of BRACU to establish synergy between BRAC and BRACU. The centre has a multidisciplinary pool of professionals from environmental science, geography, disaster management, water resources engineering, urban and regional planning, economics and business. With a holistic and integrated approach, C3ER explores the issues and possibilities interrelated with climate change and the environment. This multidisciplinary team is guided by Professor Ainun Nishat, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus and Adviser of C3ER, BRACU. Mr. A S Moniruzzaman Khan is the Director (in charge) and Ms. Roufa Khanum is the Coordinator of C3ER.

C3ER has been conducting a series of cross-sectoral research projects on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, climate change education, environmental impact assessment, and ecology and sustainable development in direct collaboration with different departments of the University.

in the fields pertinent to adaptation and mitigation. Particular attention is given to conducting research on adverse impacts of climate change on health, food security, poverty and livelihood, displacement and migration, loss and damage assessment, renewable energy, negotiation process, technology transfer, and education and awareness. C3ER has

arranged training sessions and public lectures on climate change and disaster management in association with other departments of BRACU. The Centre focuses on the following areas:

- Understanding the physical science of climate change and generating climate change scenarios for Bangladesh at local levels;
- Sea-level rise and storm surge modelling for coastal zone protection against sea-level rise and storm surges;
- Bio-physical modelling for assessing the impact of climate change on environment;
- Integrated adaptation planning and environment-friendly infrastructure design;
- Economics of adaptation to climate change and investment need identification;
- Mitigation through emission reduction, with particular focus on renewable energy options;
- Comprehensive disaster management in a changing climate;
- Application of bio-technological research at field level for the development of climate-resilient cropping systems;
- Community-based adaptation and awareness-raising at local levels;
- Education curricula development for students and the training of local people, civil society, and professionals;
- Gender and climate-induced migration, including population dynamics and displacement;



- Natural resource management to prevent degradation and preserve ecologically critical areas;
- Water supply and sanitation, pollution control, and environmental governance;
- Conservation of endangered flora and fauna to protect them from human invasion; and
- Policy formulation for mainstreaming climate change adaptation in sectoral strategy and plan options.

C3ER aims to reduce the exposure and vulnerability of the affected people of Bangladesh at the local level by enhancing their sensitivity and strengthening their adaptive capability. The Centre focuses on research design and implementation as well as effective information dissemination through policy mainstreaming. C3ER creates a common platform for researchers and policy makers so that they can work together to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies.

### Working Domains of C3ER

**Physical Science:** Physical science will form the backbone for research in the following six areas. C3ER will focus on data collection and analysis, with an emphasis on modeling to predict future changes. This includes modeling sea-level rise and storm surge, bio-physical modeling, meteorological data analysis, hydrological modeling, and vulnerability and exposure modeling.

**Adaptation:** C3ER works to help communities understand and deal with environmental hazards, along with possible future changes, using adaptation planning in the health, safety, and livelihood sectors, and thereby increasing community resilience. C3ER is also making efforts to mainstream climate change adaptation into development planning and find ways to ensure that environmental planning is also sensitive to the needs of the most vulnerable, including women, children, and the poor.

**Mitigation:** C3ER works to ensure that Bangladesh follows a low carbon growth path and lowers gas emissions and increases carbon sequestration. C3ER also researches renewable and alternative energy options and increasing energy efficiency.



**Disaster Risk Reduction:** C3ER works in improving and creating disaster forecasting and early warning systems with local communities in mind, as well as making infrastructure changes that will prove useful both now and in the future. C3ER also works to identify the gaps in current practices, and uses modeling to predict future disaster patterns.

**Biodiversity and Ecological Protection:** C3ER recognizes the importance of the local ecology. C3ER works to protect and restore Bangladesh's local ecology and resources from damage and pollution, including the wetlands of Bangladesh and its carbon-dense forests.

**Policy:** C3ER reviews and revises government policies to ensure that they take climate change and environmental degradation into account. C3ER also analyzes what the stated duties of the Government of Bangladesh are towards its people and towards the environment, by analyzing the constitution, studying government policies, and analyzing the roles of various institutions.

**Governance:** Through policy support and institutional strengthening, C3ER works to increase governmental capacity with regard to climate change and environmental protection. C3ER assesses the current level of duties the government has actually been implementing, and identifies gaps that need to be addressed.

### Highlights of 2015

- C3ER researchers Ms. Roufa Khanum, Md. Reaz Uddin Khan and Ms. Farzana Rahman presented 3 papers at Gobeshona Conference, an annual conference that showcases research on climate change in Bangladesh
- A contract has been signed between C3ER and Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the project titled "Mainstreaming Climate Resilient Development and Green Growth in ADB Operations in Bangladesh"
- Ms. Farzana Rahman, Lecturer of C3ER was awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> position in the Presenter Award in the "International Conference on Climate Change in relation to Water and Environment (I3CWE-2015)" at Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology (DUET) for her paper titled "Climate Change Impact on Agriculture and Food Security of Barisal District."
- Mr. A S Moniruzzaman Khan, Director (in charge), was invited to an interview session at People's Radio 91.6 FM to share his valuable



thoughts regarding the deadly earthquakes of Nepal describing the past history of Nepal earthquake, their movement and further impact over Bangladesh and suggestive measures. Listeners from different areas interacted with him via phone and messages.

- Ms. Tazrine Habib Ananya, Research Assistant of C3ER, presented a paper on "Land Cover Change Detection of Dhaka Metropolitan during 2000 to 2013" at the annual conference on "Recent Research on Urbanization in Bangladesh" held by CUS on their 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary on 16 May 2015 in Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, University of Dhaka. The paper demonstrates the land cover change of Dhaka city due to unrestrained urbanization within 2000-2013 time span using remote sensing techniques. The abstract of the paper will be published soon by CUS on their website.
- C3ER organized an outcome dissemination workshop titled "Mainstreaming Climate Change Consideration in the National Legal and Institutional Process" on Thursday, 14 May 2015 at BRAC Conference Room, BRAC Centre. Dr. Ainun Nishat facilitated the workshop. A number of participants from different Government and Non-Government organizations participated.
- C3ER and Natural Sciences Club of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) Department organized a seminar to celebrate the World Environment Day on June 07 2015.
- Professor Ainun Nishat Adviser of C3ER, attended a workshop titled "Tips to be a Successful Faculty Member" on 11 June 2015 at the Conference Room of JPGSPH for the Faculty members of BRACU.
- Professor Ainun Nishat, Adviser of C3ER, attended a Round Table discussion titled "Rokkha Kori Poribesh, Gori Shonar Bangladesh" on 27 June 2015 at Prothom-Alo office as a guest of honor and main speaker.
- H.E. Mr. Philippe ZELLER; French Embassy Climate Change focal person, visited C3ER. During his visit, Professor Nishat presented an overview of Climate Change issues and access to safe drinking water in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. Other issues discussed in the meeting include the role of governance in climate induced migration; 3-degree change; the LCD fund; solutions to climate change issues; the upcoming Paris treaty, and so on.
- Md. Reaz Uddin Khan and Ms. Farzana Rahman, Lecturers, C3ER, attended a follow up workshop titled 'BRACU Library Services and Plagiarism' arranged by TLC on 30 July 2015 at the computer lab, BRACU. After the workshop, certificates were awarded to the participants.
- C3ER conducted a field visit with BRAC beneficiaries in the Komen affected areas in Cox's Bazar for a rapid assessment of the post-disaster situation, from 5 to 10 August 2015. The C3ER team covered three Upazilas: Kutubdia, Maheshkhali and Teknaf of the affected districts. The assessment was done with ultra poor women who were grant holders under a project that had been undertaken by BRAC, with the help of the Norwegian Government and in collaboration with the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and UN Women.
- Ms. Sadya Islam, Research Associate, C3ER, was selected to attend the One Young World Summit that took place in Bangkok, Thailand from 18 to 21 November 2015. She was chosen to participate in the Summit as a part of Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus delegation.
- C3ER team has developed the World First Ever Climate Change Risk Assessment Portal with the support of the University of Dundee, Scotland, UK. This initiative is funded by Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme II (CDMP II). The final ATLAS was submitted on 15 October 2015. CDMP will publish the web ATLAS on their website.
- C3ER arranged a certificate course on Introduction to Climate Change designed to focus and develop the intellectual and practical skills for the application of the climate change science and subsequent adaptation and mitigation policies, from 13 to 17 September 2015 at C3ER with eleven participants, mainly officials and practitioners from different sectors of NGOs and other institutions.
- Dr. Md. Sajidur Rahman, Assistant Professor, C3ER attended an international workshop on 'Climate Change and Groundwater Resources' in Malaysia held from 8 to 10 September 2015 at UTM campus, Johor Bahru, Malaysia where he presented his paper on 'Impact of Land-use Changes on Drinking Water Availability in a Changing Climate.' The workshop was organized in collaboration with APN for Global Change Research, Japan.
- Mr. A S Moniruzzaman Khan, Director (in charge) and Assistant Professor, C3ER was selected as



held in Seoul from 31 August to 1 September 2015 and presented a paper on "Climate Resilient Agriculture: An opportunity for Public Private Partnership."

- C3ER, BRAC and The European Union (EU) delegation to Bangladesh initiated the workshop titled "Growth and Climate Change: Opportunities and Challenges in Bangladesh." on 27 October 2015 in Dhaka. Chief Guest was Minister for the Ministry of Water Resources, Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud, MP. HE Mr. Piere Mayaudon, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of EU to Bangladesh, Mr. Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Senior Secretary, ERD, Ministry of Finance; and HE Ms. Sophie Aubert, Ambassador of France to Bangladesh were the guests. Dr. Muhammad Musa, Executive Director, BRAC was the special guest.
- Md. Reaz Uddin Khan, Lecturer, C3ER participated in the professional training course on "Urban Adaptation Planning and Design" held in BCCT, Mohakhali, Dhaka from 29 to 31 October 2015 organized in collaboration with DUET, BCCT as a part of the DUET-NICHE project funded by the Netherlands.
- Dr. Ainun Nishat, Professor Emeritus and Adviser of C3ER, participated in the Conference of Parties UN COP-21 held in Paris, France from 30 November 2015 where governments from nearly 200 nations convened in Paris.
- Dr. Ainun Nishat, Professor Emeritus and Adviser of C3ER, attended a seminar on "Environment Collapse & River Pollution" at BRACU auditorium on 10 November 2015. The seminar was arranged by BRACU Earth Environment Forum.
- A workshop titled "Accessing Green Climate Fund: Opportunities, Options and Challenges for Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations" was organized by NDA of Bangladesh, ERD, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh in partnership with UNDP, GIZ, BRAC, C3ER, IIED and ICCCAD on 8 November 2015 at BICC, Dhaka. The technical session was moderated by Professor Nishat.
- "The Guardian", recently published an interview of Mr. A S Moniruzzaman Khan, Director (in charge) of C3ER, on 1 December 2015 with the title "Dhaka: the city where climate refugees are already a reality". The news was published based on the climate change impact on the people of Bangladesh, especially to people living in the coastal area. The online version of

the news is available at this address: <http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/dec/01/dhaka-city-climate-refugee>

### Completed Research Projects

- **Project name: A Quick Assessment in Cyclone Komen Affected Area**  
Client: DMCC, BRAC Duration: 1 month  
The project objective was to assess the impacts of cyclone Komen on ultra poor women's lives and livelihoods. The project also identified how BRAC suggested livelihoods options are affected by climate induced natural disaster. It also identified the potential measures that may minimize the vulnerability of the selected livelihood options in the study area.
- **Project name: Study on Impacts of Climatic and Non-Climatic Shocks to Communities and their Livelihood Activities**  
Client: Oxfam, GB Duration: 2 months  
The project objective was to identify area-specific climatic and non-climatic hazards and the impacts at community level including their coping mechanisms and provide future strategy for Oxfam to work on these areas.
- **Project name: Promoting Climate Adaptive Technologies in Agriculture and Food Security**  
Client: ASC, BRAC Duration: 3 months  
The main objective of the project was to assess the impacts of climatic hazards and finding out the current adaptive practices in the agricultural sector; explore future strategic options for adaptation to climatic stress in the agricultural sector and assess institutional mechanisms for advocacy.
- **Project name: Gender and Climate Change Adaptation**  
Client: DMCC, BRAC Duration: 3 months  
Considering the climate determinants of Bangladesh, the study assesses gender vulnerabilities in Bangladesh. The general objective of the study is to find out the effects of climate change on different gender perspectives and reduce the disparities of gender role on climate change adaptation.
- **Project name: Ensuring Safe Drinking Water in Coastal Region**  
Client: WASH, BRAC Duration: 2 months  
The overall objective of the project is to understand the current drinking water options in the Tala upazila in Satkhira district. The water census data also gives an idea about finding out the areas that are the most vulnerable and scarce areas of Tala upazila. Based on the



results of this pilot project, BRAC will further consider their development initiative in the coastal zone.

- **Project name: Roadmap for Setting up the Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework in Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation on the National Planning Trajectory**

Client: Islamic Relief, Bangladesh Duration: 4 months

The main objective of this research was to prepare a national roadmap for framing up 'appropriate' legal, policy and institutional arrangements to mainstream climate change in the national development process. In the process, the study tried to explore the transformative inclusions in the key sectoral policies for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and the institutional mechanism for coordinating and implementing individual and cross-sectoral adaptation initiatives.

#### **Publications**

- Akter, T., Mukherjee, N., Khan, A. S., & Rahman, F. (2015). Climate Change Impact on Agriculture and Food Security of Barisal. International Conference on Climate Change in relation to Water and Environment. Gazipur: DUET.
- Akter, T., Rahman, F., Ahmed, M. F., Khan, A. S., & Mukherjee, N. (2015). Shifting of Seasons: Perceptions of the Local Community in Southern Bangladesh. Gobeshona Conference for Research on Climate Change in Bangladesh 2015. Dhaka: ICCCAD, IUB.
- Ananya, T. H. (2015). Land Cover Change Detection of Dhaka Metropolitan During 2000 to 2013 Using Remote Sensing Techniques. Recent Research on Urbanization in Bangladesh. Dhaka: Centre for Urban Studies.
- Ananya, T. H., Khan, M. S., & Jahan, I. (2015). Integrating GIS and RS techniques as a decision support system & spatial information base. Recent Research on Urbanization in Bangladesh. Dhaka: Centre for Urban Studies.
- Khan, R. U., Nishat, A., Mukherjee, N., & Khan, A. S. (2015). Reversing Gender Roles for Drinking Water Collection in the Coastal Areas of Bangladesh. The Gobeshona Conference for Research on Climate Change in Bangladesh 2015. Dhaka: ICCCAD, IUB.
- Mukherjee, N., Khanum, R., Moumita, D. F., Rahman, M. S., Rowan, J., & Nishat, A. (2015). Changes in seasonality and its effect on the environmental flow. First Gobeshona Conference for Research on Climate Change. Dhaka, Bangladesh: ICCCAD, IUB.
- Nishat, A. (2015). Climate Change Scenarios for New Design Approaches for Embankments and Flood Control Structure in the Coastal Zone of Bangladesh. Dhaka, Bangladesh: BWDB, Ministry of Water Resources.
- Rahman, F., & Gourab, A. S. (2015). Linkage between Rural Producers and Urban Market Actors: Investment in Agriculture through Value Chains. Conference on Development and Democracy in Bangladesh: Problems and Prospects. USA: BDI.
- Shakil, S. H., & Ananya, T. H. (2015). Effectiveness of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Bangladesh Perspective. Bangladesh E-Journal of Sociology, 12 (1).
- Khan, M. R. U., & Saleh, A. F. (2015). Model-based Estimation of Methane Emission from Rice Fields in Bangladesh. Journal of Agricultural Engineering and Biotechnology, 3 (4), 125-137.

## Centre for Entrepreneurship Development

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### Overview

To make a significant contribution in creating an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem in Bangladesh, the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED) of BRACU started its journey in April 2011 under BRAC Business School (BBS) with the view to encouraging Bangladeshi entrepreneurs through engendering entrepreneurial knowledge and skill so that the entrepreneurs can develop and grow their own businesses. CED works for engaging potential Bangladeshi entrepreneurs in innovative thinking and imparting entrepreneurial knowledge and skills so that they can systematically advance and expand business ventures.

### Vision

To make significant contribution in creating an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem in Bangladesh.

### Mission

- ✓ To inspire, devise, nurture, develop, and elevate entrepreneurship through innovation, institutional capacity, and leadership.
- ✓ Unlocking the potential of young entrepreneurs in Bangladesh
- ✓ Visibly impacting Bangladeshi entrepreneurs and setting them on the path to sustainability

### Slogan

Kindling the spirit of Entrepreneurship

### Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives of CED are to encourage entrepreneurship and engender entrepreneurial knowledge and skills by "helping people help themselves" through innovation, capacity development and leadership. The key objectives of CED are as follows:

- ✓ Contributing in creating an inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem
- ✓ Promoting the idea of entrepreneurship in Bangladesh
- ✓ Help build capabilities of our entrepreneurs
- ✓ Address the knowledge gap and skill shortcomings that prevent entrepreneurs (in various sectors) from growing their businesses and run them effectively
- ✓ Develop academic curricula and introduce courses targeting entrepreneurs and students, who wish to pursue an entrepreneurial path
- ✓ Engage and collaborate with organizations which may include educational institutions for improving the entrepreneurial ventures of local and foreign entrepreneurs
- ✓ Run international exchange programmes and industry specific seminars
- ✓ Act as project implementers for international donors and agencies
- ✓ Research on the various aspects of entrepreneurship development

### Achievement

CED is experienced in serving the local community through various services like capacity building



programmes, promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises, entrepreneurial and other research, entrepreneurs' exchange programmes, business incubation centre, fellowship programmes, monitoring and evaluation, implementation of development projects, convening(s), etc. In 2015, CED completed its fourth operational year, and within this short period with various activities, has increased its visibility within the dynamic entrepreneurial community of Bangladesh.

Since November-December 2015, CED has been managing and implementing capacity development programme for AWAJ Foundation, an RMG workers' right-based organization. Under this project, training on "Project Management and Implementation" was organized. CED also organized a workshop on "Business Plan Development and Innovation" for the potential 'incubatees' of Business Incubation Centre (BIC), established by CED under Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP).

CED organized the Australian Award Fellowship (AAF) programme, funded by AusAID and University of Southern Queensland (USQ) of Australia. The programme aimed to develop leadership, address priority regional development issues, and build partnerships and linkages between Australian organizations and partner organizations in developing countries. Besides, a keynote presentation by the programme Manager of CED, Afshana Choudhury, was also delivered at the international workshop organized by University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC).

### **Ongoing Initiative**

CED is currently working on a research project titled "Participatory Factory Mapping Research (PFMR): Planning Phase" funded by the C&A Foundation. CED has already established an academia-based Business Incubation Centre (BIC) through a Sub-Project under HEQEP; Business Plan Competitions and enrollment of incubatees to the BIC have been organized as a part of the initiative.

### **Faculty Overview**

At the organizational level within BRACU's framework, CED is headed by an Advisor (BBS Advisor with Dean's Status), a dedicated Director and run by a programme Manager with four (4) full-time staff. BBS faculty members, academic and administration personnel from other departments, and other resources from BRACU are committed on a project-by-project basis as and when required.

### **Activities (January to December 2015) Stakeholder Workshop on RMG Factory Mapping Research**

CED has organized a "Stakeholder Workshop" on 23 March 2015 at BRAC Centre Auditorium under the research project titled "Participatory Factory Mapping Research: Planning Phase" funded by C&A Foundation. The workshop was attended by the various stakeholders of the RMG sector of Bangladesh such as factory owners, exporters' associations, representatives from buying house, researchers, academicians, etc.

The workshop was moderated by the former Vice Chancellor and Professor Emeritus, Professor Ainun Nishat, of BRACU. The keynote presentation on the research project was provided by Mr. Mohammad Rezaur Razzak, Associate Professor and Head, BBS, and Director, CED. They presented the objectives and focus of the project to the participants; which is a comprehensive census and/or "Mapping" of the RMG factories of Bangladesh.

Along with this, Syed Saad Andaleeb Ph.D., honourable Vice-Chancellor, BRACU; Professor Dr Hafiz G A Siddiqi, Professor Emeritus, BRACU; Dr Mirza Azizul Islam, Professor, BBS and former Advisor, Caretaker Government of Bangladesh; were also present at the workshop.

CED Staff attended in the Frugal Innovation Forum Research Associate of CED Mr Rayhan Miah attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Frugal Innovation Forum hosted by BRAC Social Innovation Lab from 22-24 March, 2015 at BRAC Centre for Development Management (BRAC-CDM) in Savar, Dhaka on the theme "Pushing the boundaries of development". This forum brought together the leading development practitioners, impact investing experts and social entrepreneurs from the Global South to explore financially sustainable solutions for the development sector in the post-2015 era.

### **Workshop on Strategic Brand Management**

CED, in collaboration with The Experience Academy, has organized a day-long workshop on "Strategic Brand Management" on 30 May 2015 at CED premises. Students from different universities including BRACU as well as professionals from renowned organizations participated in this workshop. Through this workshop, participants gained hands on experience on strategic brand management from the reputed strategic brand



manager of the country. The resource persons for this workshop were Ms Misha Mahjabeen (National Sales Manager, Tupperware Bangladesh Pvt Ltd.) and Mr Manas Paul (Associate Director, Asiatic Experiential Marketing Ltd).

### **Workshop on Truth and Lies in Advertising**

CED organized a day-long workshop on "Truth and Lies in Advertising" on 13 June 2015 at CED office. Students from different universities including BRACU, as well as professionals from renowned organizations participated. Through this workshop, participants gained critical insights on advertising from the reputed professional of the country. The resource persons for this workshop were Mr Khondker Fazle Rashid (MD, Premier Bank), Mr Ershad Hossain (MD & CEO, City Bank Capital) and Mr Nasir Uddin Chowdhury (MD& CEO, Lanka Bangla). The workshop was coordinated by Mr AZM Saif (MD, Paper Rhyme).

### **Training on Basic Statistics and Economics for Decision Making**

CED organized a 5-day long capacity building training programme titled "Basic Statistics and Economics for Decision Making" from 7-11 June, 2015 at CED office, BRACU for BEP (BRAC Education programme) professionals. The facilitators of this training were Mr Iftekhar M ShafiqulKalam (Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics and Natural Science, BRACU) and Dr Mir Mozibor Rahman (Assistant Professor, MNS, BRACU).

### **CED organized Final Presentation of Business Plan Competition (Round 1, 2014-15)**

CED organized the final presentation of its Round 1 Business Plan Competition (BPC) on 9 July 2015 at CED Office. The BPC was coordinated by Ms Afshana Choudhury (programme Manager, CED). Mr Shamim E Haque (Assistant Professor, BBS, and Senior Research Fellow, CED) was the moderator of the BPC.

A total of nine (9) groups were selected for participating in the final presentation of the BPC out of twenty two (22) groups mentored by CED. A "Jury Panel" consisting of BBS faculty members and other distinguished personnel was selected for evaluating the business plans submitted by the groups. The panel also checked the feasibility of these plans and provided marks to the groups as per their business ideas and presentation

performances. "Choice.Ninja" came out as the first among the groups of the BPC which was pronounced as the champion. The group will be enrolled in the BIC established by CED and funded by HEQEP for receiving business incubation support and services.

### **Entrepreneurs' Exchange Programme**

Under CED's Entrepreneurs' Exchange Programme titled "Bangladesh-India-Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs' Exchange Program" organized in May and October 2015, 8 entrepreneurs visited USA. The program was jointly implemented in association with University of Oklahoma, funded by US State Department.

### **Prize Giving Ceremony organized for the Champion of Round 1 Business Plan Competition**

CED organized a Prize Giving Ceremony for the Champion of the Business Plan Competition (BPC) [Round 1, 2014-15] on 16 October 2015 at CED Office. A group named "Choice Ninja" came out as the first among the groups that participated in the final presentation of the BPC. Professor Rahim BTalukdar PhD, Adviser (with Dean's status) of BRAC Business School was the Chief Guest of the Prize Giving Ceremony.

### **Workshop on Advanced Microsoft Excel organized by CED**

CED organized a day-long workshop on "Advanced Microsoft Excel: Foundation of Financial Modelling" on 9 October 2015 at GDLN Centre, BRACU. Students from different universities including BRACU as well as professionals from renowned organizations participated. Through this workshop, participants gained practical experiences on financial modelling using Microsoft Excel application. The resource person was Mr Md Arifuzzaman, Assistant Professor, BBS, BRACU.

### **Training on Project Development and Proposal Writing for NGOs**

CED has organized a 5-day long training program on "Project Development and Proposal Writing for NGOs" from 7-11 October, 2015 at CED office for the personnel of AWAJ Foundation. This program was organized under the project titled "Enhancing Organizational Capacity of AWAJ Foundation through Developing Effective Managerial Skills" funded by the C&A Foundation. The facilitators of the training were Mr. Abdulla



**Workshop on Business Plan Development and Innovation**

CED organized 2-day long workshop on "Business Plan Development and Innovation" from December 28-29, 2015 at CED for the registered teams of BPC (Round 2). 22 groups participated in the workshop facilitated by Parveen S. Huda, Managing Director, Renaissance Consultants Ltd.

**Training on Project Management and Implementation**

CED has organized a 5-day long capacity building and/or training program titled "Project Management and Implementation" from December 19-23, 2015 at CED office for the personnel of AWAJ Foundation. This training program was organized under the project titled "Enhancing Organizational Capacity of AWAJ Foundation through Developing Effective Managerial Skills" funded by C&A Foundation.

**Presentation by CED Program Manager in International Workshop Organized by UGC**

BRACU's CED Program Manager Afshana Choudhury delivered a presentation titled "'How can Fab Lab help start-up and inspire business entrepreneurship'" in an International Workshop on

Fab Lab on 2 December 2015 organized by the World Bank under the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP).

**CED successfully organizes Australia Awards Fellowship**

CED organized the Australian Award Fellowship (AAF) program during 8-29 November 2015 titled "Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Business Sustainability in Nepal and Bangladesh" aimed to develop leadership, address priority regional development issues, and build partnerships and linkages between Australian organizations and partner organizations in developing countries. AAF involved the delivery of a 3-week training program to nominated fellows that addressed the empowerment of women through entrepreneurship, innovation and business sustainability at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) in Australia. This program was supported by Australian Government and organized by the Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development and the International Centre for Applied Climate Sciences of University of Southern Queensland, Australia. As a part of this, CED selected 5 women entrepreneurs from Bangladesh to participate at the programme.

## Global Development Learning Network Centre

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BRACU is the one and only affiliate of the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) (<http://www.gdln.org>) in Bangladesh and has been so since 2006. The Centre is equipped with air-conditioned, soundproof video conferencing and multimedia rooms to facilitate a comfortable learning environment. Around 40 people are able to participate at a time.

The Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) is a partnership of over 120 recognized global institutions (affiliates) in over 80 countries that collaborate in the design of customized learning solutions for individuals and organizations working in education and development. Affiliates are as diverse as the Asian Institute of Management, the Ethiopian Civil Service College, the Islamic Development Bank, and Pontificia Universidad Católica of Peru. The mission is to bring the world together to facilitate learning to contribute to local and global development. Our services include e-learning courses, online training, workshops, meetings, interviews, consultation and teleconferences.

### Core Values:

The centre is driven by both social benefit analysis and cost benefit analysis, and therefore, committed to the following values: customer focus, pursuit of excellence, integrity, diligence to duty and innovation.

### Services:

1. Video conferencing courses, dialogue, meetings
2. Video conferencing facilities for hire computer-based online training, workshops, meetings, interviews and consultations
3. Teleconferences

### Asian Productivity Organization e-Learning Courses

Asian Productivity Organization of Japan (APO) and National Productivity Organization of Bangladesh (NPO) jointly organized Video Conference based e-learning courses. GDLN Centre has facilitated all its programmes from its inception in the year 2015. Different types of courses were delivered in association with 20 countries, each of which is a member of APO.

Courses in e-learning are offered by the APO in a variety of formats: video-conferencing, Web (Internet)-based platforms for live sessions, and self-learning E-courses. E-learning courses provide dual advantages. Firstly, they broaden APO's outreach and secondly, they identify participants with outstanding performance, who are then selected from several countries, face-to-face advanced training courses to consolidate their learning. The following courses were offered this year:



- a. Business Excellence for the Public Sector
- b. Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) for Greater Market Access
- c. Non Chemical Pest Management in Agriculture
- d. Knowledge Management for SME Top Management
- e. Business Excellence for the Service Industry

The selected participants included government and non-government officials, academics, researchers and experts, etc.

AFD (Asia-Pacific Finance And Development Institute) and KDI (Korean Development Institute) jointly organized an "F2F Workshop on PPP" in Shanghai, China from 30 November to 04 December 2015. This was a venture for "Capacity Building Programme for APEC Member Economies' Infrastructure Development". Delegates came from 12 countries for the PPP (Public Private Partnership).

This extremely useful F2F workshop was conducted by internationally reputed experts on PPP at GDLN. BRACU GDLN Centre facilitated Blended Learning Seminar Series 2015 on Korea's Human Capital and Innovation Policies hosted by KDI School of Public Policy and Management. The programme consisted of seven video-conference seminars. Mr.

Mohammad Aminul Islam, Senior Lecturer, was the selected participant for face to face training from 23<sup>rd</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> December in Korea. The objective of the programme was to enhance the role and impact of the GDLN in connecting practitioners, policy-makers, academics, students and facilitators of the development sector; and to provide a multi-dimensional approach to learning about Korea's development experiences. Thus, the highlights of the seminar series and face to face sessions were to share the lessons on how Korea transitioned from an aid recipient to an OECD-DAC donor. In the face to face session, the participants were taken to several important institutions.

#### **International Associations and Collaborations**

BRACU GDLN collaborates with the following organizations:

<http://www.worldbank.org>  
<http://www.apo-tokyo.org>  
<http://www.kdischool.ac.kr>  
<http://www.tufts.edu>  
<http://mftot.jointokyo.org>  
<http://www.teriin.org>  
<http://www.globalclassroom.us>

## Teaching and Learning Centre



Established in 2006, the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC) promotes excellence in education through the shared understanding and practices of teaching and learning. In collaboration with faculty members, students, and staff, the TLC strives to build an engaged and creative environment of pedagogical research and development that fosters innovation and collegiality across the University. The Centre strives to keep the campus community updated with pedagogical developments, coordinate teaching and learning resources, support professional development of faculty and staff, and contribute to successful student learning within a liberal arts tradition. From group events to personalized attention, the TLC encourages and supports measurable effectiveness in faculty and student development, course instruction and assessment, scholarly research, and innovation in education technologies. Our expanding activities and services include orientations, workshops and seminars, individual consultations, pedagogical research, and programme design and support. The TLC works closely with academic departments and programmes such as First Year Advising Team

(FYAT), Probation Advising & Support Services (PASS) and other academic and administrative partners which promote the educational mission across the BRACU campus.

### Faculty Development Programmes

Excellence in teaching is central to the University's core mission of imparting a high quality liberal arts education and fostering student development. The TLC provides opportunities for faculty members to reflect on the current knowledge and practices of effective teaching and learning through dialogue, assessment and research. The TLC hosts group workshops and individual consultations for the faculty to develop and share their experiences and explore creative pedagogic methods and resources for different settings and outcomes of student learning. The Faculty Orientation Programme, follow-up workshops, faculty conversations and individual consultation services are designed to provide continuous support to BRACU faculty members in their efforts to hone their teaching skills and instructional efficiency. Our aim is to promote campus-wide excellence in teaching which



enhances student learning and supports the professional development of new faculty members in their early careers.

### **Faculty Orientation Programme**

Each semester, the TLC hosts the faculty orientation programme to introduce new faculty to the teaching and learning goals at BRACU and to provide an early start to successful teaching careers. During the programme, the participants meet with senior faculty members and administrators, take a short tour of the campus and main offices, gain familiarity with the University's culture and curriculum, and participate in intensive workshops on the goals, techniques and outcomes of teaching, learning and assessment. The workshops introduce new faculty members to a variety of topics, including course design, active and interactive teaching methods, collaborative learning, student profiles, learning outcomes and rubrics, classroom assessment techniques, advising and learning initiatives at the University. The workshops end with panel discussions that enable the participants to meet and discuss teaching issues with senior faculty members and chairpersons of different departments. After the successful completion of the faculty orientation and several follow-up workshops, the participants of the workshop are awarded certificates.

In 2015, the TLC conducted four faculty orientation programmes. A total of 144 faculty members from different departments attended these four faculty orientation programmes. The 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> faculty orientation programmes were held on 31 January 2015 at BRACU Auditorium. A total of 68 faculty members participated in that programme. The 16<sup>th</sup> Faculty Orientation programme was organized on 29 April 2015 at BRACU's GDLN Centre where 23 faculty members participated. The 17<sup>th</sup> faculty orientation programme was held on 10 September 2015 at BRACU's GDLN Centre. In total 33 faculty members from different departments participated in the orientation. The 18<sup>th</sup> faculty orientation programme was held from 27-28 December 2015 at BRACU Auditorium where 20 faculty members participated.

### **Follow-up Workshops**

As a continuation of the topics introduced at orientation, the semester-long follow-up workshops are offered to explore specific issues of teaching-learning, and provide a forum for dialogue on

innovation in education. These resources apply current literature on educational development supplemented by our own research into student learning, classroom dynamics, cognitive processes, and learning outcomes at BRACU. In addition, the workshops also explore opportunities for the integration of technology and other high impact practices to enhance teaching and learning, and discuss scholarly approaches to teaching, course design and class management.

TLC conducted five follow-up workshops in Summer and Fall 2015 for the faculty members who attended in 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> faculty orientation programmes. The topics covered in these workshops were: web based tools for student learning and classroom management (TSR, LMS, USIS, online courses, e-portfolios); role models of a university teacher and students' expectations, BRACU library services, plagiarism and how to avoid it, use of anti plagiarism software (Turnitin). 248 faculty members from different departments attended these follow-up workshops.

### **Faculty Conversations**

With the goals of reflection, dialogue and innovation in mind, the TLC arranges faculty conversations that bring together faculty members of all ranks to share their views on teaching and learning, including the expectations, challenges and opportunities that inform teacher-student interactions. The participants have the opportunity to interact with senior faculty members, education specialists, and other experienced facilitators, and exchange views on innovative and effective pedagogies based on scholarly research and classroom practices. The TLC conducted a faculty conversation on 6 April 2015 with BRAC Business School (BBS) on teaching the multi-section BUS101 course effectively. Twenty faculty members from BBS and TLC took part in that conversation.

### **Seminar**

As a collaborative effort, the TLC organized two seminars in 2015. The first seminar was on Australian Government Endeavour Scholarship jointly organized in collaboration with the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) on April 07, 2015. The Australian High Commissioner to India was the chief guest of the seminar. Around 50 faculty members attended. The second seminar was organized on March 01, 2015 in collaboration with BBS on Young Connectors for



the Future Programme. 26 faculty members and students attended that seminar.

### **New Initiatives**

#### **IQAC- TLC Collaboration**

The Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and TLC of BRACU organized a two-day long workshop on 11 and 12 November 2015 with the intention of generating a discussion on the role, responsibilities and ethical principles of university teachers which was conducted as a part of a broader UGC drive to bring about fundamental qualitative improvements in universities. The objective of the workshop was to foster a systematic understanding of and clarity on ethical issues in teaching and learning. To ensure lively discussion of the issue by the participants, the organizers invited a handful of experienced facilitators including Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan, Professor Md. Tafazzal Hussain, Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad, Professor Rahim B. Talukdar, Professor Firdous Azim and others. The workshop included a wide spectrum of essential and relevant sessions and a plenary session engaging Department Heads as panelists. Mr. Khan Ahmed Murshid, Director, Strategy & International Programmes and TLC, moderated the workshop. Around 70 faculty members from different departments attended the workshop. The participants got the opportunity to explore a range of ethical issues and their current practices, understand key ethical principles that are important in their professional activities as university teachers, develop a better sense of the challenges within the teaching-learning community of BRACU. It is expected that the participants will be able to contribute to the national discourse on ethical issues and the promotion of moral values among students.

#### **Education Technology Innovation and Implementation Wing**

The TLC has a dedicated wing for innovation, development and implementation of technology-based pedagogy and electronic resource development. The wing makes use of the available technologies and expertise to come up with systems that play an important role in the pedagogical aspects. One of the most crucial innovations is the Learning Management System (LMS) that added a new dimension to teaching and learning. The system, being driven by web technology, augmented the resource exchange,

effective communication and assessment between faculty members and students. The system allots an authentication based webpage with interactive features for each course which allows a faculty member with immense scope to be creative with pedagogy. The system is administered by TLC on both software and hardware levels although the servers are located at the server rooms of BRACU systems. The TLC is also pushing the e-learning and distance learning culture in BRACU. The Centre is working on strategic development and relevant technology set up for that purpose. In addition, the TLC is using the media lab to curate and implement flipped classroom material. The material includes audio/video podcasts, video essays, etc. Besides these, the TLC is also working toward the development of an e-portfolio system and institutional web drive to expedite the effective communication and interaction.

#### **Student Learning Programme**

Fostering significant, long-lasting student learning is our primary goal and the metric of success at BRACU. In collaboration with other offices and departments, the TLC was actively engaged in the design, facilitation and assessment of student advising and learning programmes that foster successful outcomes of student learning.

#### **Academic Skills Workshop (ASW)**

The TLC offers a series of Academic Skills Workshops (ASW), ASW-CU, ASW-IT for the general student population as well as at-risk students and a separate series of workshops for Pharmacy students. The TLC faculty members prepare the contents and methodologies of the workshops, with topics ranging from developing effective and lifelong study skills and habits, academic expectations at BRACU, self-assessment and goal setting, exam preparations, etc. Four ASW sessions were being offered a day and twenty sessions per week. ASW-CU and ASW-IT were also offered once a week. The duration of each session was usually 80 minutes. A total of 329 students participated in these workshops in Spring, Summer and Fall 2015.

#### **Tutorials**

As part of student learning support services, the TLC also coordinates selected 100-level course tutorials in collaboration with the academic departments with a view to providing immediate



academic support to at-risk students and those who want to improve their academic performance. The TLC coordinates the tutorials offered in MNS, BBS, SOL and Pharmacy departments in all 100-level courses.

### Early Identification Programme for At Risk Students

The TLC devised a strategy for identifying students who are academically struggling and who want to improve their academic performance. Quiz and midterm marks of students in 100-level courses are analyzed by the TLC and students receiving grades of C (60%) or below are identified as 'at-risk'. At-risk students are advised and supported through the FYAT, PASS and departmental advisers. At-risk students are also sent to ASW, PASS workshops and departmental tutorials.

### Quality Assessment and Research

The Centre is committed to scholarly research and regular assessments of teaching and learning indicators. The quality assessment and research components also focus on the documentation, research and analysis of the extensive student information generated by the integration of existing and new student services.

### Achievements of TLC Programmes in 2015

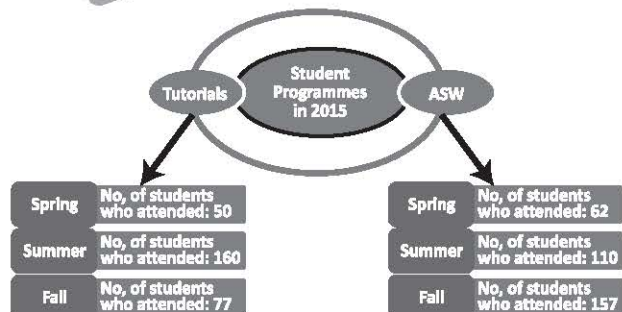
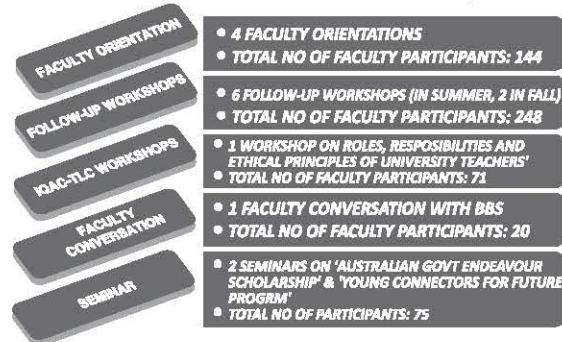
- 144 new faculty members participated in the faculty orientation programmes, 339 faculty members participated in follow-up workshops, faculty conversation and other workshops. 75 faculty members participated in seminars.
- 616 students took part in the academic skills workshop and tutorials.
- Established more inter-departmental coordination regarding faculty and student development programmes.
- Conducted faculty conversations on effective teaching multi-section courses.
- Increased tutorial support in collaboration with departments.
- Established a separate student learning programme for the Pharmacy Department which includes tutorials, first year and probation student support and parental involvement.
- Prepared web-based methodologies and platforms for faculty development and student learning programmes.
- Developed the new learning management system in collaboration with IT.

- Workshop on the utility of a learning management system as an effective pedagogic tool.
- Introduced library facilities, library integrated system, anti-plagiarism software to the new faculty members.

### Upcoming Programmes

- 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Faculty Orientation Programmes and Follow-up workshops.
- Launching Professional Development Course for new faculty of BRACU.
- Workshop on leadership development for Club Leaders.
- Workshop for Teaching Assistants and Student Tutors.
- Conference and seminars on pedagogy, technology enhanced teaching learning.
- Peer support programmes for teachers such as class observation, individual consultation, brown bag seminars/discussion etc.
- Departmental faculty conversation where senior and new faculty will interact and share classroom experience on different teaching-learning components.
- Video-taping the classes of faculty to give them chance to reflect on their own teaching strategies.
- R & D for potential ICT multimedia based pedagogy development such as online courses; asynchronous and online feedback system, e-portfolio system, needs assessment for further technology-based pedagogy at BRACU.

#### FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, 2015





## The Writing Centre

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### Overview

In 2015, the Writing Centre (WC) underwent a number of significant changes in terms of the original structure, facilities and the services it provides. These include the formulation of a strategic plan, the reconfiguration and refurbishment of its space, and the development of its own website. Over the course of the year, the Centre worked to develop its contacts within the University and the student body. Based on this outreach and contact effort, a total of 11 workshops were developed and offered to the students as well as faculty from schools and departments of BRACU.

The workshops and the individual sessions offered to the students and the faculty members were collaboratively conducted by the WC Coordinator, Kerry Sauer and a group of writing consultants, who are faculty members of BIL, BRACU.

The Centre prides itself on promoting and facilitating the honing of academic writing skills in a welcoming and collaborative environment, and this was enhanced in 2015 with the purchase of new furniture, including tables, executive chairs, and shelving. Adding to the credentials of the Centre was the installation of a whiteboard and a projector, enabling the optimal use of the premises for workshops, academic presentations, and seminars. Additionally, new to the Centre in 2015 was the allocation of a room adjacent to the central gallery to accommodate students and instructors looking

for a place to carry out academia-related group work and consultations.

One of the most exciting developments to take place for the Centre in 2015 was the creation and launching of its own dynamic website. Preparations were made in February and the launch took place on 10 May 2015. The user-friendly layout and interface of the website now allows visitors to browse easily through its 8 pages to locate the information they are looking for. Furthermore, the site contains links to other online resources and external sites dedicated to academic writing assistance.

### Services

WC primarily:

- 1) provides support to students, faculty members, and staff in academic and university-related writing
- 2) promotes awareness of academic integrity and plagiarism
- 3) collaborates with the academic community within BRACU in order to facilitate the development of academic writing and academic integrity

To accomplish its objectives, the WC offered the following services in the past year:

- individual and small group appointments
- drop-in sessions
- open attendance workshops, and
- in-class workshops/presentations



## Appointments

During student appointments, a variety of topics ranging from components and structure of various styles of academic writing, abstracts, literature reviews, to higher order concepts such as definition of what constitutes plagiarism and approaches to avoid it were discussed. It should be noted that each session was customized to cater for the individual needs of the students. The needs identified during the sessions will serve as a framework for developing study materials and workshop contents in the coming semesters.

The year 2015 also experienced a surge in faculty attendance, with attendees seeking consultation on their own academic writing, such as journal articles, Ph.D. proposals, curriculum materials, dissertations and other documents, predominantly seeking editing feedback on their writing. During the sessions, the WC consultants engaged in discussion encompassing 'bigger picture' concepts such as unity and coherence, thesis statements, and plagiarism. Throughout the year, the feedback from these appointments was highly encouraging, resulting in increased numbers of personal referrals to the WC, especially for the colleagues of attendees.

A glance at the table below gives an overview of service seekers at the WC over the last year:

Appointments 2015	Fall	Summer	Spring
Combined Total	201	185	95
Students	148	165	95
Faculty	53	20	n/a

## Workshops

Ms. Sauer and the writing consultants of the WC were engaged in researching and developing new workshops for both the students and faculty members of BRACU.

The workshops listed below were conducted by the WC over the course of the year for students. 11 workshops were attended by a total of 304 students.

Anonymous feedback received post-workshop and post-appointment was overwhelmingly positive regarding the students' views on the usefulness of their sessions, as well as, the service and support received from WC consultants and staff.

## Workshop Titles:

- Plagiarism & How to Avoid It Using APA
- Plagiarism & How to Avoid It Using IEEE
- Starting Your Thesis
- Deconstructing Assignment Instructions
- The Writing Process & Synthesizing Information
- APA Intermediate
- Editing in MS Word 2013

Workshops 2015	Fall	Summer	Spring
Total Number of Workshops for Students	5	6	0
Total Number of Workshop Attendees	134	160	0

For the faculty members, the WC also offered a number of workshops including a series of sessions on Academic Research. In addition, in 2015, the WC started offering workshops on plagiarism and specific style guides as part of Teaching Learning Centre's new faculty orientation programme. The following workshops were offered over the year:

- Academic Research Series: Planning Your Research
- Academic Research Series: Writing Your Abstract
- Academic Research Series: Literature Review
- Plagiarism & How to Avoid It Using IEEE
- Plagiarism & How to Avoid It Using APA/MLA

Workshops 2015	Fall	Summer	Spring
Total Number of Workshops for Faculty	5	3	3
Total Number of Workshop Attendees	71	160	No data

The feedback received from faculty on the workshops and consultations was highly positive and clearly showed the relevance of the content, the presenters' depth of knowledge, and the optimum quality of the organization of the sessions.

## Editing

Ms. Sauer joined the Editorial Board for the compilation and publishing of the University's Annual Report for 2014. This highly challenging task proved to be extremely rewarding in terms of experience gathering and in establishing the Centre's credibility and credentials. As a significant amount of time was required to be dedicated to the editing of the report, the experience brought forth the formulation of a framework for all future writing and editing; streamlining suggestions were made to

and accepted by the Editorial Board which would increase the efficiency of the process for the 2015 Annual Report, reducing the amount of time contributed by the Writing Centre. This was one of the centre's most tangible and visible contributions to the University, permitting greater integration of the Centre into the fabric of the institution. It was also a grand opportunity for fine-tuning the editing skills of the Writing Centre consultants.

### Survey for Future Workshops

During the Summer and Fall semesters, an evaluation of the WC services was collected from both the faculty members and students for extensive analysis. The information gathered through this process has been incorporated into the planning, designing, and development of future services to be offered by the centre.

WC sent out an end-of-term survey to the faculty members of the university requesting their input on future workshops, which yielded very encouraging results. The Centre received thirty-eight responses, which illustrated the respondents' interest in the following areas in the coming year:

1. Writing Research Proposals
2. Staying Organized when Researching
3. Writing Personal Statements

The WC had an eventful year in 2015. Over the years, it has developed into a prominent resource centre that serves the academic needs of the University. The centre continues to dedicate itself to pursuing academic excellence in the years to come.

### The Listening Lab

In 2015, BRACU Listening Lab has seen a rise in the use of its facilities and materials. On an average, a total of 600 visits were recorded each month. To keep up with the increasing interest of the students, in Fall 2015, a total of 170 new listening materials were developed by the BIL faculty members and added to the existing reserve. Of these, 28 materials were designed specifically for Pre-University students, 12 for the students who

are doing ENG 091 course and 130 materials for the general users of the listening lab. To diversify students' language skills as well as their knowledge, the materials consists of academic listening resources, documentaries and motivational videos. The resources have follow-up activities that the students can work on to test their skill and progress. Essentially, the materials of the Listening Lab focus on helping BRACU students to improve their English language skills by reinforcing and enhancing their exposure to the target language and simultaneously providing them with a relaxed, motivational environment.

Additionally, the Lab offers a collection of books, both fiction and non-fiction, to improve the reading skills of students. Coupled with the comfortable atmosphere and setup of the lab, reading becomes a pleasant experience for the students, thus motivating students to read.

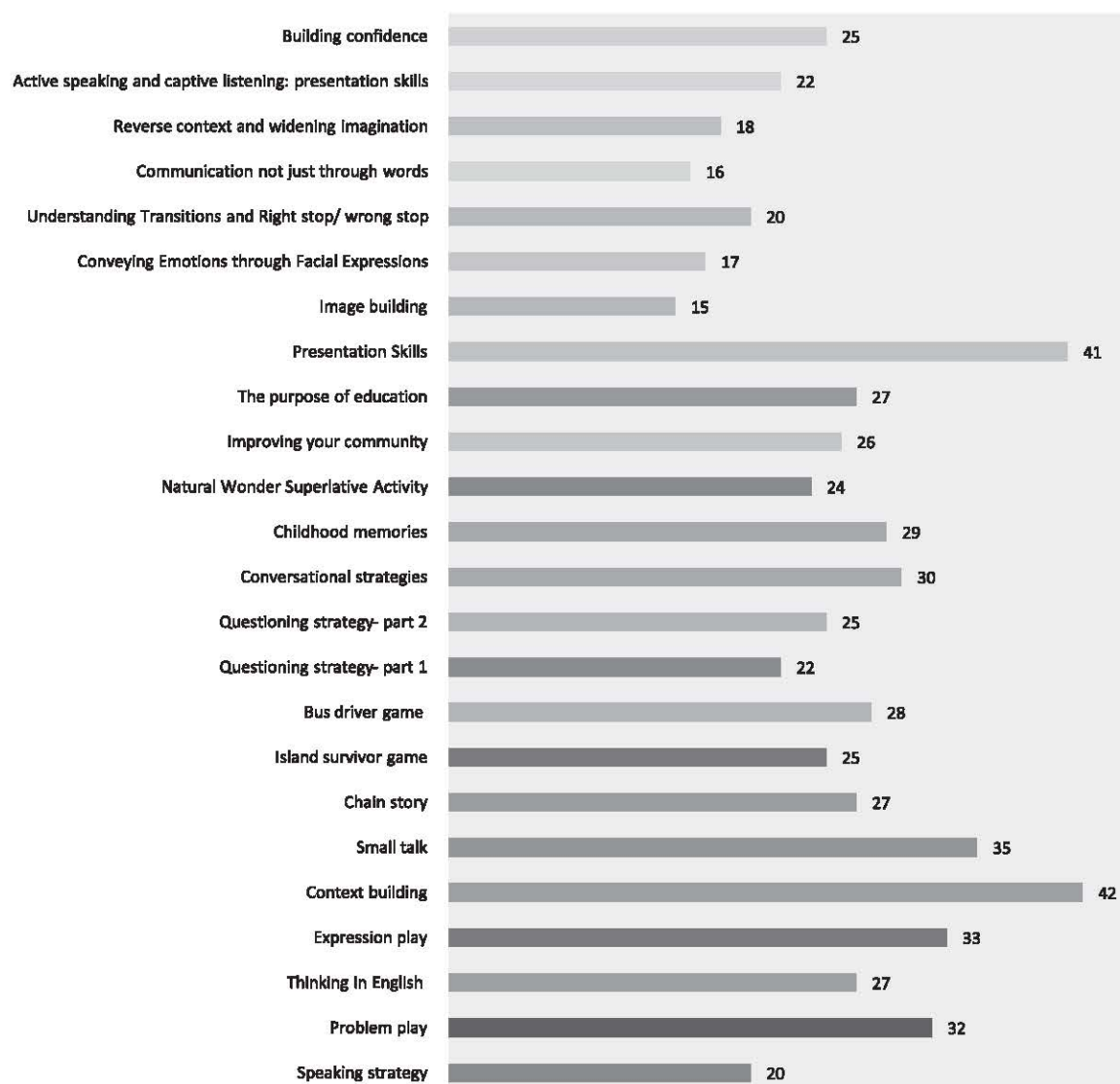
Furthermore, the Listening Lab organizes different speaking sessions for the learners where they can practise speaking English in an enjoyable environment with a low affective filter. These sessions focus on creating a learning environment that promotes interdependence, which would help students develop interpersonal skills to gain successful oral communication. The following language learning objectives have been addressed in different sessions:

- building vocabulary
- understanding context
- widening imagination through practising brainstorming skills
- learning conversational strategies by asking questions, maintaining turn takings
- understanding transitions while speaking and knowing where to stop
- becoming conscious of facial expressions
- being aware of body language while speaking
- art of speaking by captivating an audience as well as becoming a good listener
- self-image building by developing one's own persona as a speaker



### A brief view of the sessions during the academic year 2015

#### Sessions that were held from Spring 2015 to Fall 2015 and the number of participants





Inspiring Excellence

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## **RESOURCES AND SERVICES**

Ayesha Abed Library  
BRACU Administration  
Counseling Unit (CU)  
Finance and Accounts Department  
Human Resources Department (HRD)  
Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)  
Medical Centre  
Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations (OCSAR)  
Office of Co-curricular Activities (OCA)  
Office of Communications (OoC)  
Office of the Registrar  
Office of Student Affairs (OSA)  
Procurement Department  
Relationship Management Office (RMO)  
Residential Semester (RS)



## Ayesha Abad Library



The Ayesha Abad Library at BRACU aims to become a world-class knowledge resource centre and provide innovative services and collections to support academic and research activities of the University community.

In 2015, Ayesha Abad Library continued to strengthen and expand its collections and its services by purchasing and subscribing to print and electronic resources and to develop and maintain the required technical infrastructure for accessing these resources. It has been a significant year for the library.

The library was able to extend the range and depth of the collection by subscribing to thousands of e-journals and databases. In 2015, 2021 printed books and 4639 e-books were added to the main collection. Additionally, the total number of other documents (theses, dissertations, internship reports, annual reports and others) uploaded into Dspace was 693 (<http://dspace.bracu.ac.bd>).

The library conducted 39 Information literacy classes for 1303 students and faculty. The main purpose of the sessions was to acquaint students and faculty with Information sources, resources and techniques to retrieve resources in line with their needs.

### New Resources in 2015

#### **BDLex (Online Comprehensive Repository of Judgments and Acts Database)**

BDLex is a fully Indexed and searchable online comprehensive repository of judgments and acts database, enabling faster and better legal research, offering not only domestic case law and legislation, but also a vast international (India and Pakistan) repository. BDLex provides a single point source of accessing diverse Bangladesh legal and business

knowledge. This database provides depth and breadth to your research that is simply not achievable with physical libraries. The database includes: Bangladesh Case Laws since 1970, Bangladesh Statutes, Ordinances and Orders, Relevant Case Laws 1870-1969 (India and Pakistan), Central Statute of India, Supreme Court of India.

### E-books

In 2015, 4639 e-book titles were added to the library e-book collection through purchasing. These included titles from a variety of subject areas:

- **SAGE:** 2639 titles (Business and Management, Education, Geography, Politics & International, Sociology)
- **Cambridge University Press:** 2000 titles (Humanities, Social Science, Computer Sciences, Basic Sciences)

### Training/Workshop conducted in 2015

BRACU Ayesha Abad Library conducted two workshops for systems librarians. A total of 42 library professionals from 40 public and private universities and research institutes in Bangladesh participated in this workshop. Representatives from University Grants Commission (UGC) and Bangladesh INASP PERII Consortium were also present in the workshop. Both workshops were funded by International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), UK.

The workshops were conducted in two different phases. During the first phase, held from 11 to 14 May 2015, the participants of the workshop were acquainted with the variety of library systems and tools, open source software and web development tools. Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice



Chancellor of BRACU was present as the Chief Guest of the closing ceremony of the first workshop.

The second phase of the workshop held from 20 to 21 May, focused on the technical aspects of e-resource management. The Chief Guest of the closing ceremony was Professor Salehuddin Ahmed, Ph.D., BBS and former Governor of Bangladesh Bank. The chief guests distributed certificates among the participants. Ms. Hasina Afroz, University Librarian of BRACU organized and conducted the workshops along with Mr. Auninda Romy Saleque, Senior Assistant System Programmer and Mr. Shahajada Masud Anowarul Haque, Assistant Librarian.

### Staff Training, Development and Conference Participation

Training is a critical element of excellent staff performance. Library staff participated in the following workshops, seminars, and conferences during the year:

- Ms. Hasina Afroz, University Librarian, BRACU attended the MeetBdREN 2015 Conference from March 15 to March 16 at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, University of Dhaka. She presented a paper on **"Building next generation Digital Libraries in Bangladesh through cooperation, collaboration and innovation"** and co-chaired the digital library session. Ms. Hasina also attended a workshop on **"Digital Resources"** on 3 August organized by Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN), University Grants Commission (UGC).
- Mr. Auninda Romy Saleque, Senior Assistant System Programmer attended a training programme on **"Network Security: Vulnerabilities and Management for Campus Network"** from 7 June to 11 June 2015. The training was organized by Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN), University Grants Commission (UGC).
- Mr. Md. Nasir Uddin, Deputy Librarian and Mr. Md. Shahajada Masud Anowarul Haque, Assistant Librarian participated in a day-long national seminar on **"Cross -Talk of Digital Resources Management: step towards digital Bangladesh"** organized by Bangladesh Association of Librarians, Information Scientists and Documentalists (BALID) on 22 August 2015.
- Mr. Md. Shahajada Masud Anowarul Haque, Assistant Librarian completed an online course

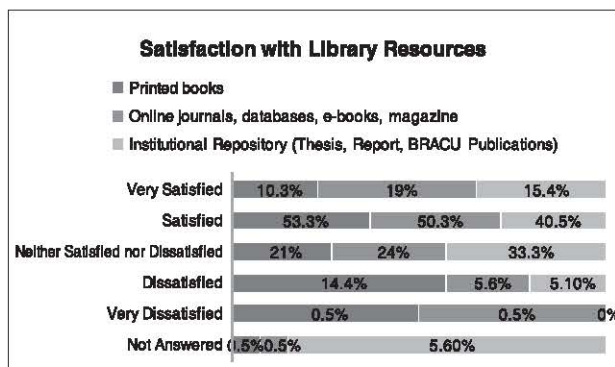
on **"AuthorAID Course in Research Writing"**. The course duration was from 20 October to 30 November 2015. The course was organized by INASP, UK.

### Users' Satisfaction Survey

In 2015, BRACU Ayesha Abed Library conducted a users' satisfaction survey inviting responses from students and faculty members. The purpose of the survey was to measure current use and levels of satisfaction with the library and to identify priorities for the future. A total of 195 respondents completed the survey. The survey explored the views of respondents about frequency of use of library resources and satisfaction levels with library services, overall views on library services and recommendations for improvement to the library services and resources. Some findings are given below:

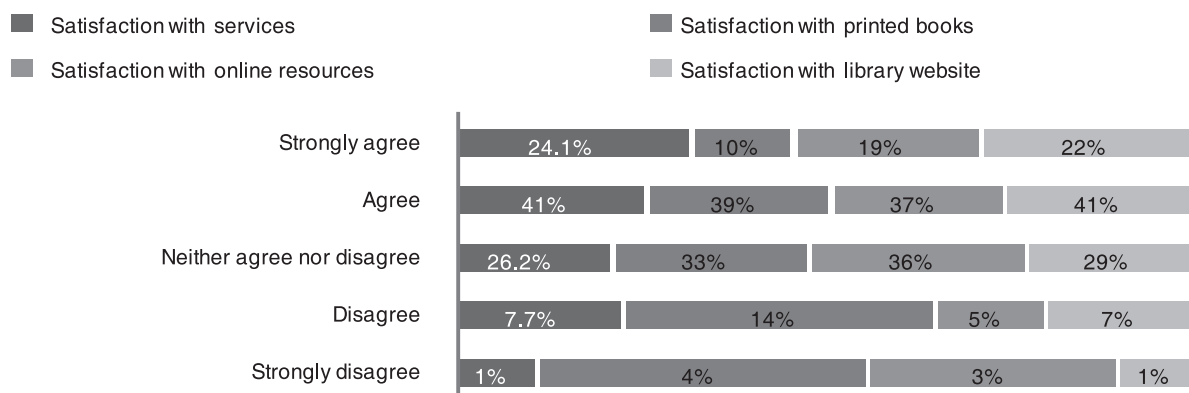
- 66% of respondents said they visit the library in-person at least 1-5 hours during a normal week.
- 69% of respondents spend at least 1-5 hours of using online resources from BRACU library's web page.
- 13% of respondents never used the library in-person and 23% of respondents said they never used library's online resources.
- The most common activity on visiting the library was individual study (31%), followed by borrowing or returning books (29%) and group study (20%).

The users were asked to rate how the library generally meets their needs in terms of books, journals, electronic databases, library catalogue, computers, photocopiers, printing, helpfulness of staff, training sessions, study facilities, study environment and opening and closing times. Respondents were provided with 5-point scale (5= Very Satisfied, 4 = Satisfied, 3 = Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied, 2 = Dissatisfied, 1 = Very Dissatisfied).



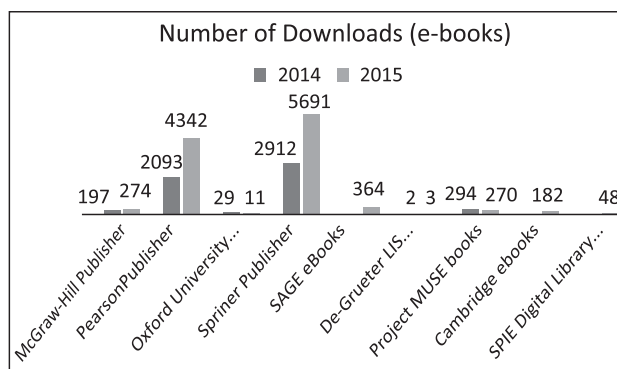


### Overall Satisfaction with the Library



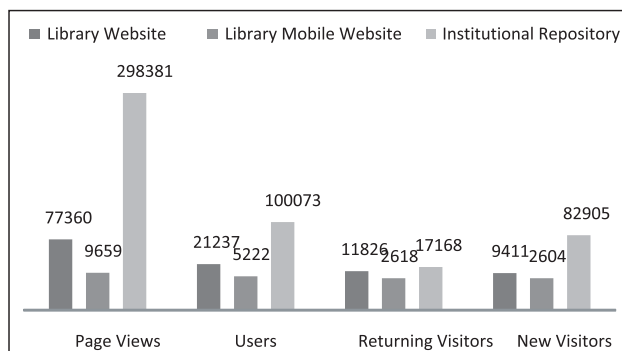
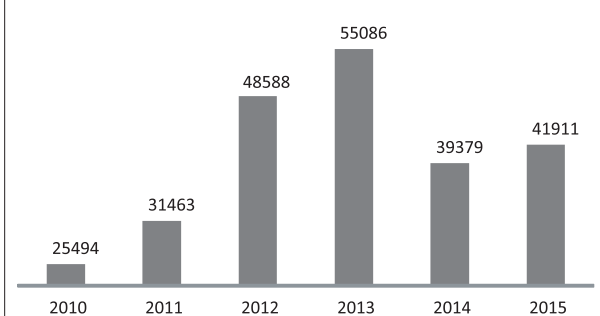
Respondents were also invited to suggest three things that they think would improve the library experience at BRACU. A total of 159 respondents made suggestions, highlighting a number of key issues for library users, including improvements to the library's space, study environment, increasing borrowing privileges, a better range and more copies of core books, etc.

Users were asked to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with different statements related to the library.

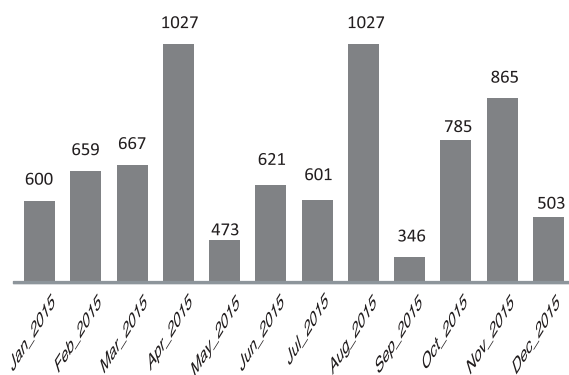


Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Responses	Mean
The library staff is knowledgeable	32.3%	39.5%	24.1%	3.6%	0%	194	3.99
The library staff provides clear and accurate responses	31.3%	40%	23.1%	4.1%	1.5%	195	3.95
The staff is helpful	37.9%	41.5%	15.4%	4.1%	1%	195	4.11
The staff is always available to assist	40.5%	33.8%	17.9%	5.1%	2.1%	195	4.06
The staff provide response in a timely manner	35.9%	40%	16.4%	5.1%	1.5%	193	4.01
The library has competent staff	32.8%	35.9%	20.5%	8.2%	0%	190	3.86

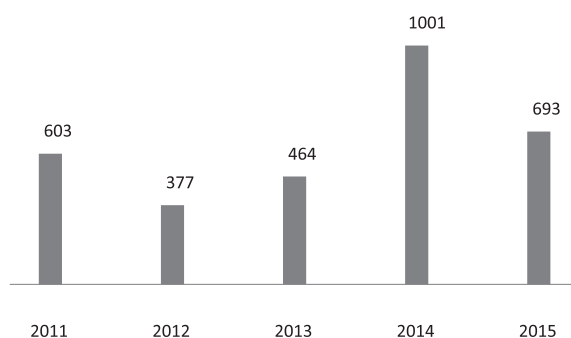
### Online Journal Articles Downloads 2010-2015



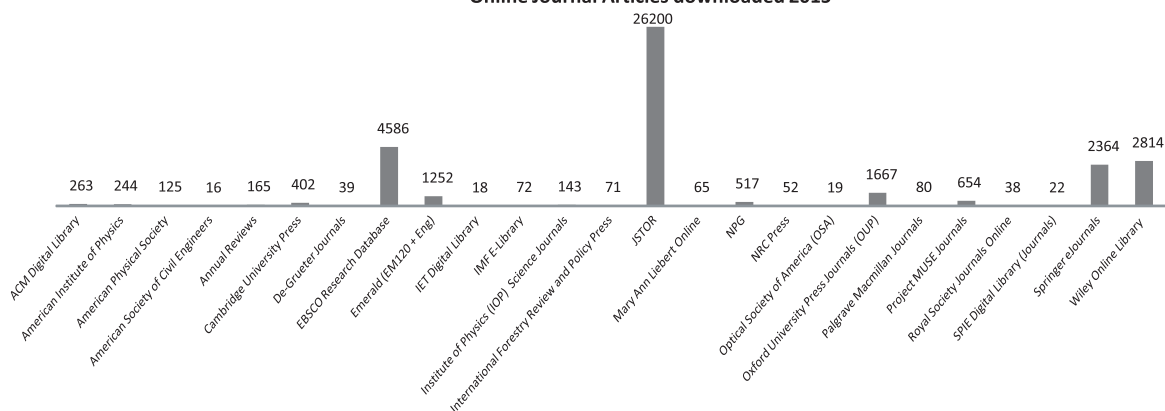
**Open Athens Usage Statistics  
(Remote Access to Online Resources)**



**Number of Items added into Institutional Repository  
(dspace.bracu.ac.bd)  
2011-2015**



**Online Journal Articles downloaded 2015**



**Circulation (Loans and Borrowing Activity) 2011-2015**

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total Loans	5962	9204	10320	11433	9770
Total Renewals	19368	38736	51640	59061	67959
Total Holds	441	860	917	1246	872

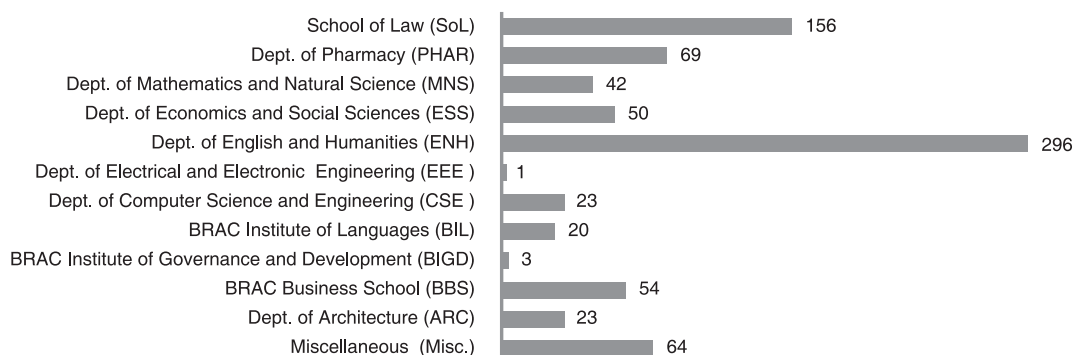
**Information Literacy Classes 2010-2015  
(Training in using library and information resources)**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Sessions	51	71	91	95	55	39
Participants	1255	1500	2400	2565	1415	1303

Number of Visits to Ayesha Abed Library Website, Mobile Website and Institutional Repository site:

#### Statistical Summary

**Book Purchased 2015 (Department-wise)**





## BRACU Administration

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### Overview

BRACU Administration plays a crucial role by providing administrative and logistical support to facilitate academic and other related activities of the University.

### Core Functions of Administration

The Administration Office has a wide-ranging number of core functions which are integral to the smooth running of the University. Below are some of its core functions and responsibilities:

- Provide logistical support to ensure smooth running of all academic and non-academic activities
- Provide support to the admission process
- Look after all fixed and variable assets
- Ensure maintenance of all assets
- Provide logistical support across the University
- Ensure high-level safety and security
- Ensure successful completion of any event of the University
- Ensure healthy and hygienic environment of the University

- Provide and maintain transport facilities for faculty, staff, and students
- Provide and support renovation works for the University

### Highlights 2015

- Successfully completed 10<sup>th</sup> convocation with various logistical support
- Provided logistical support for admission tests every semester
- Provided support for conducting classes and exams
- Provided logistical support for all workshops, seminars, and conferences across the University
- Provided all kinds of logistical and transport support for BRACU & BRACU new campus and Residential Semester, Savar.
- Provided all kinds of renovation work for the University
- Met all administrative requirements as established by the higher authorities of the University.

### Infrastructure and Assets of the University

Assets and Resources	Break down	Remarks
Total Buildings: 06	Total space- 228554 sft	
Total Rooms: 524	Class rooms	67
	Computer Labs	28
	Architecture Studios	08
	Electrical and Electronic Engineering & Electronic and Communication Engineering	11
	Listening & Writing Lab	01
	Faculty & Staff Rooms	424
Other Fixed Assets	ACs	499
	Furniture for Classroom for Students	3100
Total Vehicles: 26	Buses	02
	Jeeps	02
	Avanza	03
	Cars	06
	Micro Buses	12
Staff Working Under BRACU Administration	Drivers	26
	Office Assistants	99
	Maintenance Staff	36
	Telephone Operators	01
	Gardeners	02
	Security (BRAC)	93
	Cleaners (out sourced)	42

Including RS &amp; BIGD



## Counseling Unit

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"Knowing others is Wisdom, knowing yourself is Enlightenment"- Lao Tzu



Recognizing the importance of mental health support in personal and professional development and well-being, BRACU Counseling Unit (CU) has been offering mental health services for its students, faculty members and staff since 2002. Following an extensive assessment of counseling needs in 2005, the CU was formally established in the same year. In response to the growing need for a counselling service, the unit now includes nine professional counselors, supported by external adviser, and working under the supervision of Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Director, BIL. This unit provides counselling for problems resulting from a fast-paced lifestyle through offering a listening ear, appropriate therapeutic procedure, and incorporating mind, emotion, physical, and spiritual aspects in a holistic way. The counsellors provide a wide range of support services and educational programmes at the Mohakhali Campus, and in the Residential Campus.

The mission of the CU is to offer non-biased mental health services and support to assist in overcoming life's challenges and moving towards positive changes. The CU supports an environment that fosters personal growth, development, and psychological well-being. The CU follows the American Counseling Association (ACA) Code of Ethics to maintain confidentiality, be nonjudgmental and respect individual and cultural differences.

### **Mental Health Services Offered**

**Counseling Service:** The CU offers individual, group, pair, and parent counselling sessions to assist individuals to deal with life's challenges and move towards self empowerment and autonomy. Some of the issues are: parenting concerns, academic concerns, adjustment issues, addiction, stress and burn out, goal setting, social and communication skills, etc.

University is an excellent example of an exciting life-event, full of changes and challenges. Students may face a variety of challenges in personal development, academic performance and adjustment to university life. Therefore, this unit assists students to learn to manage personal problems and situational crises, strategies to adjust to campus life and cope with academic stress, and develop self-awareness, personal responsibility, and skills for lifelong learning.

In the year 2015, the Unit provided counselling services to a total of 575 clients both at the Mohakhali Campus, and in the Residential Campus where, most of the clients were self-referred and some were referred by the BRACU authority. The total number of sessions were 1165.



### University Adjustment

Adjusting to university can be difficult. Students may experience discomfort related to:

- First time exposure to university
- Classroom etiquette
- Course load
- Study habit
- Public speaking
- Time management
- Communication with faculty members
- Peer relationships
- and more...

**Workshops/Training:** In 2015, the Unit offered 22 workshops on a variety of issues such as *Meditation, Anger Management, Stress Management, Effective Relationship Skills, Effective Communication Skills, Emotional Intelligence-way to successful life, Managing Exam Anxiety, Self Love and Self Respect*. Besides these, under the coordination of TLC, the CU facilitated 3 "Academic Skills Workshops" exclusively for the students of first year such as *Enhancing Self Confidence and How to Say NO to Others*. In 2015, on a need basis, this unit offered 4 workshops on Heal your Pain and 5 workshops on Adjustment with Self and Others for the students of BRACU girls' Hostel.

**Seminars:** In 2015, the CU facilitated 3 seminars on awareness of drug dependency at Savar's residential campus on 14 March, 6 June, and 3 October 2015, respectively for educating youth about the negative consequences of taking drugs, providing necessary information regarding available help, counselling and other resources. The Unit also hosted a seminar titled "Parenting with the parents of BRACU students" on 12 December 2015. The CU also hosted a seminar to observe World Mental Health Day.

### Additional Activities Inside BRACU

In 2015, facilitated a session in faculty orientation workshop which was offered by the TLC, hosting short sessions on parenting both in Mohakhali and residential campuses, advising students of FYAT programmes, facilitating short sessions on Counselling at FYAT Day, facilitating Academic Skills Workshop under the coordination of TLC, conducting classes in Introduction to Psychology and Psychology for Architecture offered by the Department of Economics and Social Sciences and conducting exam invigilation.

In addition, the Unit conducted a number of promotional activities such as preparing and updating the CU's website and the brochure to promote mental health awareness inside the campuses. On a needs basis, this Unit also assisted and participated in various activities of the residential campus, such as BRAC Visit Programme, Social Learning Lab, Parents Meeting and Public Health Orientation Seminar. Besides, the counsellors also facilitated sessions on 'Mindfulness based Stress Reduction' and 'Photography' as the Residential Semester Activities.

### Extended Support

The CU is also actively involved in a variety of training initiatives, educational programmes, and collaborative efforts inside and outside the University. For the last five years, this Unit has been facilitating motivational sessions for the students of the Medhabikash Programme under the BRAC Education Programme (BEP), BRAC. In the year 2015, this Unit conducted a total of 15 sessions with 405 students. In addition, in the year 2015, this Unit prepared Intelligence Quotient (IQ) for selecting the students for the Medhabikash Programme. This unit also conducted a needs assessment and motivational session for the students of Rai Foundation Scholarship Recipients in September 2015.

### Research and Article Publication

In 2015, the counsellors also published various articles to create community awareness on mental health issues such as: Dignity in Mental Health; Mirroring your Body and Mind; The Truest Freedom: Consciousness; Power of Pain; Let us Talk about Sexuality: Breaking the Silence of Adolescents; Acceptance Within etc in the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of the CU Newsletter 2015. One member published an article titled mywPKrmv in Bengal Barta in the October issue of 2015, while another member published an article on What to do if you experience Nightmares? in the Daily Janakantha.

Moreover, one member has been conducting research on Introducing Therapeutic Guidelines for Identification and Exploration of Childhood Parental Messages since 2014 and another on her research titled General Outlook and Activities Related to Mental Health in Bangladesh: Status of Counselling will be published.

### Professional Skills Development

Members of the CU attended different training, workshops, seminars, e-learning course and



conferences such as Multi-level Learning; Faculty Orientation and Development Programme; Cognitive Behaviour Therapy; Psychodynamic Psychotraumatology and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing; Core Elements of Counselling for Sexuality, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights issues; Basic Concepts on Sexuality; follow up workshop on Faculty Development Programme- USIS and Learning Management System; Psycho-social Counselling; TLC Follow-up Workshop 'Tips to be a Successful Faculty Member'; How to get published; Writing Your Abstract; Writing Your Literature Review; Mindfulness based Cognitive therapy; Conference on Transactional Analysis and Human Development-Saying Hello Conference, 2015 in Bangalore, India; Roles, Responsibilities and Ethical Principles of University Teacher; Plagiarism; and Movement therapy Conference in Bangalore, India.

### Mental Health Awareness programmes, October 2015

The CU observed the Mental Health Awareness programmes throughout the month of October 2015 which included one seminar, one workshop and a mental health awareness campaign. The CU also hosted a seminar to observe World Mental Health Day on 15 October 2015 in collaboration with the Center for Psychological Well-being and SRHRG of BRAC Institute of Educational Development, BRACU and the Gender Justice and Diversity programme of BRAC. Mr. Khan Ahmed Murshid, Director of Strategy and International programme of BRACU, welcomed the guests. After that, the seminar highlighted various mental health services provided by the organizers. Later on, a panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Nishat Fatema Rahman, Assistant Professor and coordinator of the Center for Psychological Well-being and SRHRG, BRAC Institute of Educational Development, BRACU. As panelists, Dr. Shaheen Akhter, Professor of Pediatrics and programme Director, Institute of Pediatric Neurodisorder and Autism, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University; Dr. Shaheen Islam, Professor and Chairman, Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, DU; Khursheed Erfan-Ahmed, Founder Member of Ain O Salish Kendra and Roushan Jahan Parvin; Senior Deputy Director, Support Service & Halfway Home and PSC Unit of Ain O Salish Kendra were present at the seminar. The panelists discussed the mental health services they provide, common barriers that the field of mental health faces presently and the initiatives being taken to overcome these challenges in order to uphold dignity in mental health.

### New Faces of CU

Dr. Mehtab Khanam, Professor of Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, DU, joined BRACU CU as an adviser in 2015. Md. Saifur Rahman joined as a Psychosocial Counselor at residential campus, BRACU.

### Publication of CU Newsletter 2015

The CU of BRACU published the second Issue of the CU Newsletter 2015 in the month of October 2015. The theme of this issue was "Unfold the Unique Self". The aim of the issue was to accept, empower and nurture the unique potentials of each individual.

Each individual represents a distinct self or persona. Exploring the unique essence of that 'distinct self' was the key concern of the issue. Through this newsletter, readers will find ways to unveil themselves gradually. Apart from emphasizing 'self', in this newsletter, there are other useful articles on different topics like, autism and disability, childhood sexual abuse, compassion, sexuality, substance abuse and so on. With the combination of all these topics, this issue acts as a successful one in empowering the readers. Moreover, this issue focuses on the news of several recent activities of the CU of BRACU.

HIGHLIGHTS-2015			
COUNSELING	SEMINAR	WORKSHOP	ADDITIONAL SUPPORT
477 Clients	5 Seminars	41 Sessions	4812 Recipients (students, parents, faculty members and staff)
1098 Sessions	1560 Audience	1086 Participants	

#### MOHAKHALI CAMPUS

#### SAVAR CAMPUS

COUNSELLING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of Clients: 322</li> <li>No. of Sessions: 750</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of Clients: 115</li> <li>No. of Sessions: 348</li> </ul>
SEMINAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of Seminars: 02</li> <li>No. of Audience: 210</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of Seminars: 03</li> <li>No. of Audience: 1350</li> </ul>
WORKSHOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of Sessions: 29</li> <li>No. of Participants: 680</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of Sessions: 12</li> <li>No. of Participants: 403</li> </ul>
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class Conduction</li> <li>FYAT Advising</li> <li>Parent Session</li> <li>Research/Article Publication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faculty Orientation Session</li> <li>Awareness Campaign</li> <li>BRAC Visit and Social Learning Lab</li> </ul>

## Finance and Accounts Department

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BRACU Finance and Accounts Department operates under the supervision of the Treasurer. He is directly appointed by the Chancellor (Hon'ble President, People's Republic of Bangladesh). The Finance and Accounts Department performs the following activities:

- Receives tuition, admission and other fees from the students,
  - Receives research grants from donors,
  - Makes all types of payments and arranges IOU/Advances,
  - Other activities such as:
    - Weekly Fund Position Report, Monthly Central Budget Variance Report
    - Annual Financial Statements
    - Scholarship Reports
    - Provident Fund and Gratuity Fund Financial Statements
- Donor Reports
  - Taxation activities of the University and its faculty and staff
  - Student enrollment and registration
  - Faculty and staff payroll
  - Fixed assets management
  - Cash and cheque management
  - Budget preparation and budgetary control
  - Financial forecasting, project proposals etc. to meet the various requirements for the new campus at Merul, Badda
  - Auditing of Donor Projects/Internal Audit and Statutory Audit for various stakeholders.

The Finance and Accounts Department also provides financial information, analysis and reports to the management and assists in the policy and decision-making processes of BRACU.



## Human Resources Department



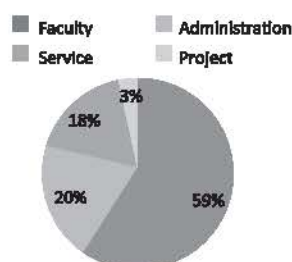
The Human Resources Department (HRD) at BRACU is committed to attracting, encouraging, developing, and retaining a high-quality workforce to support the University's mission of excellence. It shares the University's dedication to build a culture that respects all of its members and celebrates their diversity and contributions as well as values their integrity, creativity and accomplishments.

The department also works towards achieving the objective of making BRACU a centre of excellence. HRD follows the University Grants Commission

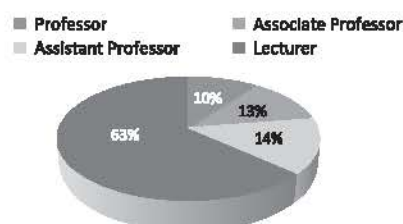
guidelines to shape its recruitment policy with the objective of recruiting talented faculty members and administrative staff. In 2015, a total of 179 employees joined BRACU as faculty, admin staff, project staff, and service staff.

There are separate human resource policies for academic and non-academic staff. These policies include all the issues pertinent to human resource management at BRACU. A code of conduct on sexual harassment is in place and followed by all employees working at BRACU.

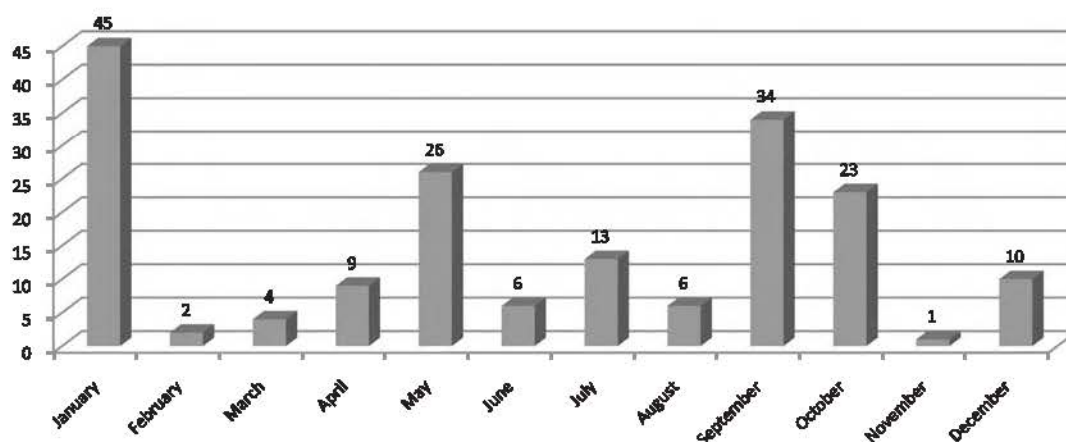
Chart Title



Faculty Member Designation Ratio



Recruitment 2015



## Institutional Quality Assurance Cell



The Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of BRACU was established in July 2015 with a view to ensuring quality in all types of activities of the university. IQAC was established as a project for a period of 3 years with financial assistance from HEQEP, UGC and World Bank (WB). IQAC will become a permanent organ of the University after three years and its operations will be sustained and maintained under the revenue budget of the University.

### General Objective

To promote a quality enhancement culture within the University by ensuring that the academic entity adopts and implements Quality Assurance (QA) standards and benchmarked quality criteria.

### Specific Objectives of the IQAC

1. Review existing policies and procedures of BRACU;
2. Assessing and strengthening capacity for effective governance, teaching-learning, research and community services;
3. Institutionalize quality assurance systems within the University;
4. Prepare the University to meet the external quality assurance assessment and accreditation requirements;
5. Monitoring and evaluating self-assessment (SA) practices and processes through audit, survey and other instruments; and
6. Co-ordinate all QA related activities at the national level; and liaise with UGC and other external QA agencies.

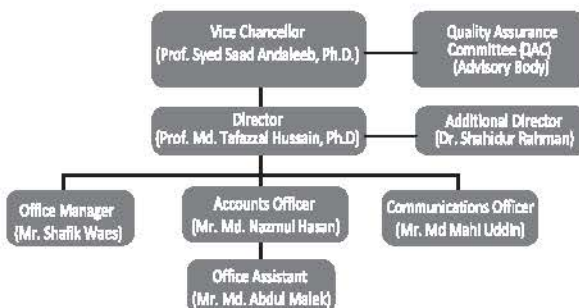
### The role of IQAC

The IQAC was set up following an administrative order of the University authority. It is organized in a manner which befits the size, existing structure and capacity of the University as delineated in the Act.

### The role of IQAC is to:

1. support the University in achieving its vision through providing quality tertiary education;
2. function as a central quality assurance cell for the University and review existing standards and procedures;
3. develop new standards, policies, systems, processes, and procedures by adapting and incorporating best practices;
4. systematically monitor and evaluate University practices and processes through audit, survey and other instruments as deemed fit to ensure generally acceptable standards of quality.

### Organogram of IQAC, BRACU





## Workshops/Training programmes

IQAC has organized some important workshops and training programmes to implement its broad objectives.

### Inaugural Workshop

Inaugural workshop of IQAC of BRACU was held at the University, Mohakhali Campus, Dhaka on 5 October 2015. Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor of BRACU presided over the workshop. Professor Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Head of QAU of HEQEP under UGC was present as Chief Guest. Dr. Md. Moklesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer of WB and Professor Sanjoy Kumar Adhikary, Ph.D., Quality Assurance Specialist of QAU, UGC were present as Special Guests. Members of QAC and SAC of BRACU attended the workshop. The event was conducted by Dr. Shahidur Rahman, Additional Director of IQAC, BRACU.

### Training on Roles, Responsibilities and Ethical Principles of University Teachers

A two-day training session on roles, responsibilities and ethical principles of university teachers was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015 at the BRACU auditorium. It was jointly organized by IQAC in association with TLC. The programme was designed for the faculty members of BRACU.

The objective of the training programme was to highlight the roles, responsibilities and ethical principles of university teachers from a global perspective.

### Workshop on Good Governance, Financial and Office Management

A workshop on Good Governance, Financial and Office Management was held on 3 December 2015 at GDLN Conference Room, BRACU. IQAC, BRACU in association with BIGD jointly organized this workshop. The objectives of the workshop were to equip BRACU officials with the necessary skills in office management and financial management and to focus on good governance. Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan, Professor, DU and Mr. Shoheler Rahman, Deputy Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, were present as facilitators and discussed Good Governance and Financial & Office Management respectively. Dr. Shahidur Rahman, Additional Director of IQAC and 57 Administrative, Finance & Accounts and HR Officers participated from all institutes, schools and departments of BRACU.

## Overseas Training

QA as a system is a new intervention in higher education in Bangladesh. Hence, it requires exposure, training and experience from those having similar cultures and from those who have implemented this before. In order to obtain these, the QAU, UGC has organized a number of training sessions in different countries including India, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. The directors and additional directors of IQACs of different public and private universities have participated in these training sessions.

### Prof. Md. Tafazzal Hussain participated in a training sessions in Thailand

Professor Md. Tafazzal Hussain, Director, IQAC of BRACU participated a training programme on "Quality Assurance in Higher Education" in Thailand. The programme was organized by Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) Extension from 18-29 November 2015. The training also included visits to one public and one private university of Thailand. The areas covered in the training were:

- (a) QA system
- (b) Status, issues and challenges in Higher Education QA
- (c) QA goals
- (d) Assessment of QA mechanism
- (e) Curriculum framework
- (f) Teaching Learning
- (g) Planning and Institutional development
- (h) Budgeting in education planning
- (i) Preparation of Self-Assessment Report (SAR).

### Dr. Shahidur Rahman participated in a training programme in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Dr. Shahidur Rahman participated in a training programme in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia organized by Edu Leads Consulting from 8-21 November 2015. The training included visits to private and public higher education institutions in Malaysia.

The areas covered in the training were:

- (a) overview on global QA systems
- (b) governance & higher educational challenges
- (c) curriculum design and delivery
- (d) research and publications
- (e) other significant QA areas - students support service, faculty development and innovation and entrepreneurship and industry connect
- (f) quality assurance & measurement and
- (g) writing an audit report.

## Medical Centres



BRACU Medical Centres provide medical services to students, faculty members and staff. The centres are well-equipped to provide necessary emergency medical services, advice and referral services to the University community. Both the medical centres at Mohakhali Campus and Residential Campus, Savar have teams of qualified and professional doctors and nurses.

### Highlights

Major activities are listed below:

- A total of 7,101 patients (3,556 from the main campus and 3,545 from the residential campus) were attended to and received prescriptions and medical advice. A total of 4,871 patients out of 7,101 were students and 2,230 were faculty members and staff (Figure.1).
- Most common diseases: 1,334 were viral fever and common colds. Other diseases were respiratory tract infections 940, traumatic and burn injuries 1,341, skin diseases 279, eye and ear problems 112, dental problems 95,

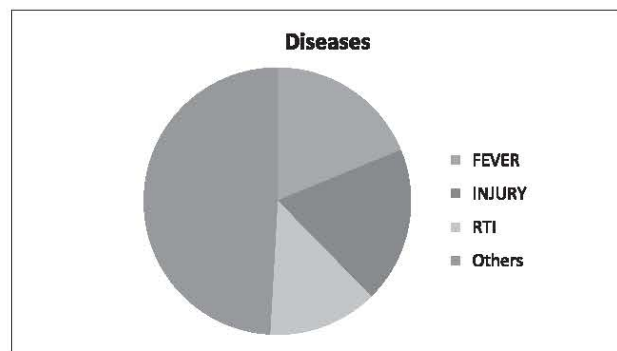


Figure.1

hypertension 116 and other symptoms 2,884 as seen in Figure.2.

- Vaccines were provided against tetanus, hepatitis, and cervical carcinoma to 72 patients and homeopathic medicine was provided against chicken pox.

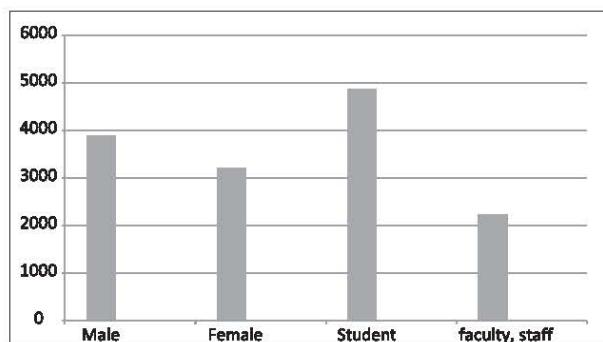


Figure.2

- Medical teams also organized awareness programmes by displaying posters about different seasonal and common diseases in the University such as those related to street food, anti-smoking campaigns, prevention of winter diseases, summer diseases, bronchial asthma, etc.
- Prepared health profiles for 1,370 freshers.
- Provided general health check-up services to 2,700 students.
- Medical centres ensured acceptable standards of public health and sanitation at the University campuses and hostels. The medical team also collected drinking water samples from every building and tested these twice a month. The test was done at MNS, BRACU and at ICDDR,B to ensure WHO acceptable standards of drinking water.



## Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations

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Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations (OCSAR), formerly known as Career Services Office (CSO), in BRACU started its journey in 2001 with the aim of helping students in career development.

Since its inception, OCSAR is poised to consolidate and expand its range of services for students by ensuring their optimal preparedness for the professional world and induction as active members of a revamped alumni association through a democratically mandated body.

OCSAR has a director and six full-time staff who are working to develop leading career services in the country, one which compares favorably with the best career services globally.

The core programmes of OCSAR include: career counseling, CV writing, interview skills, professional skills development programme (PSDP), mock interview sessions, career clinics, individual advice, internships, workshops and seminars, on-campus recruitment events, job placements and work experience opportunities, community service internship programme (CSIP) and the Alumni Association.

The core services of OCSAR are regularly updated, in line with the changing nature of the job market and the needs of graduating students of BRACU. Furthermore, through workshop and seminar sessions, students are given a strategic understanding of the employment market and key issues that impact it.

Apart from dealing with these core issues, OCSAR is

that are important for both graduating students and the University as a whole.

The Professional Skills Development Programme (PSDP), a flagship 13-week modular course, is a unique, intensive course dedicated to preparing final year students for the corporate world. The curriculum of the new PSDP goes beyond the skills of CV writing, job searching and interviewing, also providing essential guidance to the students on issues such as self-assessment, career exploration, the job search process, and further education. All of these are strengthened through systematic individual advising and career clinics.

The mock interview session is held every semester to provide the students a real-life experience of actual interview boards staffed by key employer organizations seeking interns and employees. The mock interview process encourages and fosters academia-corporate relationships which OCSAR has been actively developing with a view to constructing partnerships between the University and major employers across economic sectors.

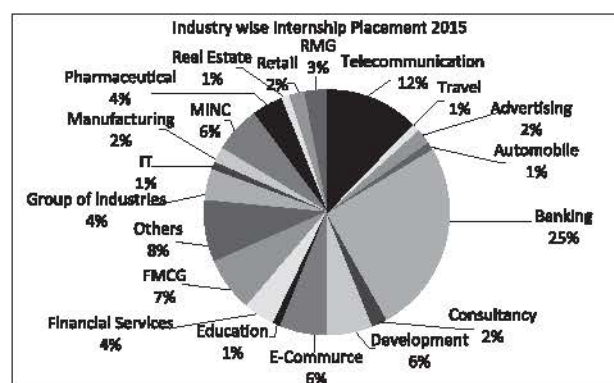
To facilitate students with maximum assistance regarding career choices, job search and academic counseling, OCSAR offers individual advisory sessions to final year students. The purpose of individual advice is to help students explore their strengths, interests, weaknesses and other transferable skills alongside assistance regarding career and academic choices. The advisors guide students to choose suitable career paths. The advisors are always open to assist students as well



as encourage and motivate them in all that they pursue professionally and personally when required.

In the year 2015, OCSAR arranged internships for more than 271 Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) students and 203 Master of Business Administration (MBA) students. An additional 22 students from Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), 12 from English and Humanities (ENH), 1 from Pharmacy, 1 from Economics and Social Sciences (ESS), 12 from Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS), 2 students from Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) were placed in a variety of organizations according to their preferred choice of industry e.g. banking, telecommunication, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, advertising and event management, education, and other areas.

The following chart shows the sector-wise Internship Placement (Spring'15- Fall'15):



OCSAR connects employers with students and vice versa through various job placements. It works with more than a hundred companies from different sectors including multinational corporations (MNCs), telecommunications, banks, IT, hospitality and other areas. Over the years, OCSAR has catered to strengthened links with different organizations and provided them with suitable candidates for relevant positions.

In order to keep all the graduates connected to the University, OCSAR along with Alumni Association of BRACU (AABRACU) are working together to track all graduate students. By maintaining ties with students who graduated as far back as the University's inception, OCSAR ensures their skills and knowledge benefit more than just their companies by creating a conduit to engage fully the alumni with its own objectives and the priorities of BRACU.



#### *Newly elected members of the executive committee of AABRACU*

After months of hard work and effort, the Alumni Election Working Committee (AEWC) along with OCSAR has successfully organized the election process and formally announced the newly elected members of the executive committee of AABRACU. The General Elections took place on 24 and 25 April 2016. The results were declared on 26 April 2015. On 10 May 2015, a handover and takeover meeting of AABRACU took place in the VC's conference room of BRACU.

The first major event by the newly elected AABRACU Executive Committee took place on 4 July 2015 at an iftaar party, where much awaited alumni ID cards were distributed among the present BRACU Alumni. OCSAR provided necessary information and ardent support to make the initiative a success.

#### **Major Highlights**

##### **Engineering and Computer Science Career Fair 2015**

With a view to bringing together major employers with graduating students from engineering and computer science, OCSAR and School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) of BRACU together organized their first ever departmental career fair entitled "Engineering and Computer Science Career Fair 2015" from 10 June to 11 June 2015 at BRACU. Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor, BRACU, inaugurated the event along with other guests.



The two-day event engaged renowned companies from different economic sectors. The participating companies held different seminars on career opportunities in the field of Engineering and Computer Science. The departments of CSE and EEE displayed their missions, activities, achievements and future prospects in an interactive manner. In addition, a round table discussion on "The Need for Industry-University Collaboration in the Field of Engineering and Computer Science" was held as part of the Career Fair at the GDLN Center of BRACU on day two.

The fair ended with a closing ceremony at the Indoor Auditorium of BRACU on 11 June 2015.

### **Session on "Women at Work"**

OCSAR in association with everjobs.com arranged an event entitled "Women at Work" at BRACU Auditorium on 2 December 2015. The purpose of the event was to acknowledge women who are working in our society. This event was enlightened by the presence of guest speakers who are working in different economic sectors in Bangladesh. Speakers at this event shared extraordinary tales on women's leadership and empowerment. They also talked about gender equality and equity in order to create a balanced society and take the country forward.

Mr. Bart van Dijk, the Country Manager of Everjobs Bangladesh moderated the event. The keynote speech at this event was given by Her Excellency, Leoni Margaretha Cuelenaere, the Ambassador of

The Kingdom of the Netherlands to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Professor Firdous Azim, Chairperson, Department of English and Humanities, shared her insights on women's empowerment. Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Director, BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL), gave a motivational speech thanking all the attendees of the event at the end.

Awards were given to the guests and certificates from Everjobs were given to the students.

### **Guest Speakers from Corporate world to conduct PSDP Class**

In order to provide students with real vibes from the corporate world, a number of PSDP classes were conducted by experienced personnel from different economic sectors.

The interactive sessions with the students were not only effective but also helped students gain knowledge on corporate trends and required leadership attributes for future career progression. Stronger links with corporates help students prepare for the world of work. On the other hand, corporates get an idea of BRACU students' perceptions and expectations from different economic sectors.

Industry leaders from Finance Ministry of Bangladesh, Jamuna Television, Jobsbd.com, Unilever Bangladesh conducted PSDP sessions on various career related issues as guest speakers for this semester.



*On-Campus Recruitment Session\* of Hotel Le Meridien*



*Internship Recruitment programme of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd.*

## Major Events



**AABRACU Career Seminar on "Higher Studies and Scholarship Opportunities Abroad"**



**Seminar on "Self-Branding for a Brighter Future"**



**Session on "Women at Work"**



**Engineering and Computer Science Career Fair 2015**



**Training on "Social Accountability and Ethical Sourcing"**



**BACCO Seminar on "How to start career in BPO Sector in Bangladesh"**



## Office of Co-curricular Activities



### Introduction

Shafaat Bari Ivan (Director), Shazzad Hossain (Sr. Student Affairs Officer), and Javed Rasel (Sr. Student Affairs Officer) are members of Office of Co-Curricular Activities (OCA) which supervises the activities of clubs and forums to make the co-curricular arena of the University vibrant and student-oriented.

### Clubs and Forums

Each club or forum includes teacher/staff advisers and student representatives. Enrolment of members is held during the club fair organized each semester. The Director of OCA supervises the activities with the help of an assistant director and student affairs officers. A yearly award system has been introduced for students who make major contributions to the activities as well as for the most active clubs. Rules have been introduced for participating in the activities without hindering academic performance.

There are 31 student clubs and forums in different categories: Culture/Films; Debates/Moot; Business/Economics; Heritage/Arts; Social welfare/Community services; International; Entrepreneurial; Subject-related; Sports; Science; Adventure/Environment.

### Highlights of Events and Achievements

#### Inauguration of Vision (Volume-5)

On 20 January 2015, Business magazine VISION,

Volume - 5 was launched. This exclusive business magazine was published by BIZBEE with the theme "Tomorrow's Business with Today's Youth", which includes the cover story on the founder of BRAC, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, KCMG. VISION is one of the many activities organized by BIZBEE. VISION-5 has rich content relating to business activities in Bangladesh and the world.

### Pitha Utshob

"Pitha Utshob" is a traditional event of our Bangladeshi culture in winter; and the BUHF organized this event to keep this tradition alive. BUHF organized this event on 27 January 2015 in the BRACU auditorium. To inaugurate this event, Professor Fuad H. Mallick, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRACU along with Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Director BIL, were present. Several members of the club brought in a variety of homemade 'pithas'. The ambience was enriched by playing popular Bangla songs at the venue.

### Women Celebrate the Joy of Creation and Sharing: The Tech Way by BUCC

"Create. Share. Celebrate" - with this vision, the Google Women Techmakers of Dhaka Bangladesh illuminated the GDLN of BRACU on the occasion of Women's Day on 7 March 2015. The seminar was organized by GDG Dhaka and BRACU, sponsored by Bikroy.com with the partnership of Kokhon.com, BRACU Computer Club and PreneurLab. Conference started with a speech by Mr. Arif



Nizami, GDG Manager Dhaka, followed by Ms. Farah Nazifa, Women Techmakers Dhaka Lead from BRACU. Discussions were enlivened by the participation of Mr Wahid Ahsan, and Mrs. Nilima Ahsan, the founder and co-founder of User Hub.

#### **Teaching chess to underprivileged children by BUCHC**

BUCHC started teaching chess on a pilot basis at two BRAC schools on 27 April 2015. The members of BUCHC took two classes per week to develop chess skills among students. The objective of this programme is to utilize chess as an educational tool to enhance people's analytical and cognitive skills. The programme also aimed at finding chess talents from under-privileged students.

#### **Seminar entitled "Socio-Cultural and Global Effect of the Current Political Situation in Bangladesh" by GAFBU**

On April 5 2015, GAFBU arranged a seminar on the Socio-Cultural and Global Effect of the Current Political Situation in Bangladesh in BRACU auditorium. The seminar was arranged in order to give the students a mini platform to share some of their obvious concerns and worries with the invited scholars, and to gain some perspectives on the issues. Dr. Sabbir Mahmud, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, DU was the keynote speaker and the guest speaker was Mr. Maruf Mia, Lecturer, Political Science of Bangladesh, Open University. Mr. Khan Ahmed Murshid, Director OCSAR attended the programme as guest speaker.

#### **Initiation in Nano Satellite Technologies: You could be next by ROBU**

A seminar titled "Initiation in Nano Satellite Technologies: You could be next" was held on 31 March 2015. Under an MoU between BRACU and Kyushu Institute of Technology, Abdulla Hil Kafi, the ex-president of Robotics Club of BRACU, along with Maisun Ibn Monowar, President Electrical and Electronics Club, attended a six-month long exchange programme at Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan to research nano-satellites. In this seminar, they shared their experience and gave some guidelines to students to prepare themselves for this research. Mr. F. R. Sarkar, General Secretary of Bangladesh Astronomical Society was the special guest of the seminar. Professor Md. Sayeed Salam Chairperson EEE, Professor Md.

Haider Ali, Chairperson CSE, adviser of Robotics Club along with faculty from EEE and CSE were present at the Seminar.

#### **Commemorating Independence Day by BULC**

On 29 March 2015, BULC organized the screening of the 'War Crimes Files', reported by David Bergman and directed by Howard Bradburn. The hour-long documentary essentially is a report on 1971 war criminals residing in the UK, who have not been brought to justice. The documentary show was enjoyed by students of SoL, BRACU. The main objective of the screening was to bring together future social engineers so that they can familiarize themselves with the past and connect it to how it affects our present and our future.

#### **Project Shadhinota by BUCuC**

BUCuC with sponsorship of daraz.com.bd, organized 'PROJECT SHADHINOTA' on 28 March 2015. The event include a photo exhibition, project shadhinota photo booth Amar Shadhinota Contest, Project Shadhinota Documentary Show, Project Shadhinota Cultural Performance and games. Exciting gaming stalls were set up in the auditorium. There was also a competition which took place online "Daraz.com.bd Amar Shadhinota Contest". Finally 'Project Shadhinota' commenced with performances by BUCuC along with guests from NSUSS and East West University as a tribute to mark the Independence Day of Bangladesh.

#### **Global Arduino Day 2015 by BUCC**

Arduino is an open source hardware that may be described as a tiny computer. Arduino Bangladesh is an initiative to connect and to enlighten people with the latest Arduino technology. Arduino Bangladesh took the initiative to celebrate Arduino Day (28 March) in Bangladesh for the first time. The event was powered by BUCC and The Tech School. It took place in BRACU premises, open to students from all institutions of the country. The event took off with the inaugural speech by Annajiat Alim Rasel, adviser, BUCC. Mr. Zafor Iqbal, Mr. Jonayet Hossain, Mr. Samiul Hoque, Mr. S. Mahubub-Uz Zaman and Md. Shamsul Kaonain, Co-adviser, BUCC gave speeches and shared words of wisdom and encouragement. The event was sponsored by TechshopBD and ToolsBD and the partners were Rupantor, The Tech School, Campus Star, Wexard Studio, TechshopBD and ToolsBD.



### **Awareness Workshop on Migrants' Rights**

On 14 March 2015, BUFC jointly arranged a workshop with BRAC Migration programme on safe migration.

Every year a large number of the working class of Bangladesh migrate to foreign countries in the hope of getting better jobs and earning higher salaries. To improve the condition of migrants and for safe migration, BRAC Migration programme produced the film "Towards a Dream" based on a true story. The film was screened at the auditorium of BRACU. After the screening of the film, there was a question answer round which was conducted by Mr. Hassan Imam, programme Head of Migration programme and Ms. Mushfiqa Jahan of the same programme. Dr. Aparna Islam, Director of OCA and Md. Solaiman Jony, Co-adviser of BUFC were present as well.

### **13<sup>th</sup> Red Cross Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition by BUMCS**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Red Cross Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition began on 12 March 2015. Even though this moot court competition itself began on 12 March 2015, the journey towards the competition began with the 10<sup>th</sup> National Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition, held in Dhaka from 28-30<sup>th</sup> August 2014. Around 24 universities from all over Bangladesh participated in the competition and BUMCS emerged as the champions, while the Faculty of Law, DU was the first runner up. After the preliminary rounds, four teams qualified for the semi-final rounds, and BUMCS was one of them, along with University of Colombo, Sri Lanka; Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, India and Tribhuvan University, Nepal. All four semi-finalist teams were selected to go to Hong Kong for the 13<sup>th</sup> Red Cross Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition, which is the Asia-Pacific round of the competition.

### **Participation In the Inter university basketball tournament by BUIGC, 01 June 2015**

BUIGC participated in the Inter-University Basketball Tournament named "Freedom Fighter Kazi Kamal Uddin (Bir Bikrom) Memorial Basketball Championship 2015" organized by Bangladesh Basketball Federation.

It was a three-day tournament, from 30 May to 1 June 2015. The participating teams were: DU, JU, BRACU, Notre Dame College and St. Joseph Higher Secondary School.

### **Liter of Light: Set to Make a Change by BUCC**

Tech Alliance of Bangladesh and BRACU students gathered for a discussion and hands-on workshop on an amazing concept named 'Liter of Light' on 29 May 2015. Amit Kumar Dey, the president of BUCC introduced Mr. Mahbub Uz Zaman, former President of BUCC and representative of Arduino Bangladesh at the event. Md. Shamsul Kaonain, Co-adviser of BUCC, also joined the session.

### **BRAC Bank Great Gender Debates, BUCC**

BRAC Bank Great Gender Debate was held on 28-30 May 2015. Debate topics were some of the most important issues regarding women's rights in Bangladesh and all over the world. The tournament also featured memorable sessions with Ms. Dina M. Siddiqui and Professor Ferdous Azim who helped the participants learn about the different struggles women face in our society and how we can help remove these hurdles from their paths and bring about equality for all.

### **Rafi-Al-Fattah won 1st prize in National photography contest**

Rafi-Al-Fattah, member of BUAC and student of BBS, won the 1st prize in the Conceptual category at the DUPS 2nd Photography Festival 2015. Dhaka University Photography Society (DUPS) organized this contest. At the university level, photographs were submitted in six categories: conceptual, portrait, lifestyle, wild life, festival, and photo story. Among them, only 50 reached the final and Mr. Fattah's photograph was chosen for the first position. On 23 May 2015, Cultural Affairs Minister, Asaduzzaman Noor, MP handed over the award to Mr. Fattah in a prize giving ceremony.

### **Smart Green Building Technology by BUCC**

A seminar titled "Smart Green Building Technology" was conducted by AplombTech BD Ltd. on behalf of the ICT Division of the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, supported by BUCC on 20 May 2015 at BRACU. The seminar was presided over by Dr. Aparna Islam, Director OCA while Mr. Didarul Alam, Senior Technical Marketing Executive of AplombTech BD, Professor Md. Haider Ali, Chairperson, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, BRACU and Mr. Khan Ahmed Murshid, Director OCSAR were special guests at the event. Mr. Mohammad Mastak Al Amin, Assistant Director, OCA and Md. Shamsul Kaonain, Co-adviser, BUCC also attended the seminar.



### **Club Fair Summer 2015: Club Fiesta**

The inauguration ceremony of Club Fair Summer 2015: Club Fiesta took place at BRACU auditorium on 20 May 2015. Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, inaugurated the club fair. He, along with Ms Ismat Shereen, Head RMO, Mr. Ali Salman, Head of Communication, Mr. Md Nurul Islam Bulbul, Assistant Director, Administration, were present at the event.

This time the club fair was spread out over the campus. Events took place at Prangon and Building 3 Indoor Games Room. The club fair was organized by OCA and supported by BUCC, BRACU Monon, BRACU Film Club, BRACU Drama and Theatre Forum and BIZBEE, Heritage forum, Art Society, Photography Club, Indoor Games Club, Cricket Club, Football Club, Adventure Club and IABC.

### **Club festivals: Day 2 at Auditorium**

The second day of the club fair was equally eventful. The day started with a grand inauguration ceremony of BRACU Chess Club and BRAC School Programme that took place at BRACU Auditorium on 21 May 2015. The guest panel in the inaugural function consisted of Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Dr. Aparna Islam, Mr. Saiful Tariq, Mr. Mahmud Hasan and none other than 'The Living Legend' Grandmaster Mr. Niaz Murshed. Distinguished guests and the audience included Professor Fuad H. Mallick, Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Professor Zia Uddin Ahmad, and faculty members, officials and students. The most popular activity of the function was a rapid chess game between Vice-Chancellor Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb and Grandmaster Mr. Niaz Murshed.

### **Food festival by BRACU Monon**

For the very first time in BRACU history, 'MONON' organized a Food Festival affiliated with 'Event Factory' named 'Food Factory V1.0' on 13 October 2015 at BRACU Auditorium and Cafeteria. Many well-known restaurants such as SBARRO, Columbus Coffee, Madchef, Iram's Café, Hashtag, Kiva Han, Crise Cardiac Grill, Cinnamon Sugar and Buljha Lou participated in the event. The event, which was a huge success, was full of surprises such as 'buy one and get two free'.

### **CBU participated in Clemon Indoor University Cricket Tournament, 1-7 September 2015**

CBU participated in Clemon Indoor University

Cricket Tournament held from 1 to 15 September, 2015. About 32 private and public universities participated in the tournament. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time that BRACU has participated in this tournament.

### **Supreme Court Visit by BULC**

BULC organised a visit to the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on 23 August 2015 for the senior students of School of Law. A total number of 22 students along with the club adviser of BULC, Professor Saira Rahman Khan, went on the visit. The visit included trips to several courts, benches and administrative offices in the Supreme Court. Seven BRACU alumnis took time out from their busy schedules and showed students around the court.

### **ART ISHKOOL 2, Workshop on Digital Art" organized by BUAS, 18 November 2015**

BUAS organized 'Art Ishkool 2, Workshop on Digital Art' which was conducted by the famous cartoonist, Mehedi Haque, from UNMAD and president of BANCARAS (Bangladesh Cartoonist Association) and his team Akantis on 18 November 2015 at BRACU auditorium. A total of around 65 attendees were present at this event, including Ms. Fahmida Saadia Rahman, Lecturer, ENH and adviser of BUAS.

### **BRACU ROBU participated in Bombay IIT Techfest 2015, 26-28 December 2015**

Asia's prestigious Sci-tech festival Techfest '15 was held in IIT Bombay, India. The fest began on 26 December and continued till 28 December 2015. A team of young tech enthusiasts from BRACU's Robotics Club showcased their innovations in the IRC (International Robotics Challenge) exhibition. Countries including The Netherlands, Hungary, South Korea and many others gathered together to exhibit their innovative creations. The event was graced by leading names from Spreadsheets, BitTorrent, Cisco, Oracle, Vodafone, etc. The BRACU team was led by Dr. Md Khalilur Rahman, adviser, BRACU ROBU and Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering. The student participants were Mizanur Rahman, Imtiaz Kalam Abir, Mohammad Tahmid Rashid, Mohammad Zahirul Islam, Ali Hasan, Mohammad Shadman Sakib Chowdhury and Syed Mahmud Hasan.



## Major Events



*Women Celebrate the Joy of Creation and Sharing: The Tech Way by BUCC*



*Club Fair Summer 2015: Club Fiesta*



*Club festivals: Chess Competition between Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb and Grandmaster Mr. Niaz Murshed*



*Food festival by BU Monon*



*CBU participated in Clemon Indoor University Cricket Tournament, 1-7 September 2015*



*Supreme Court Visit by BULC on 23 August 2015*



*Moot court society in the 'Henry Dunant Moot Court Competition 2015 at Shanghai*

## Office of Communications



The Office of Communications is responsible for upholding BRACU strategic messages to its key stake holders including prospective employers of BRACU graduates, students, parents and guardians, potential future students and guardians, alumni, partners in education, business organizations, media, donors and universities within and outside the country. OoC promotes the University's reputation and credentials to all stake holders through maintenance of effective two way communications.

OoC acts as a communication and information focal

point on all BRACU related information. The office is actively involved in all university related events and activities. It also compiles all information related BRACU documents, films, videos and publications. OoC also maintains effective working relations with relevant Ministries and Government Offices and University Grants Commission. OoC is a key player in planning and organizing the University Convocations.

OoC formulates the draft Communications and Branding Strategy of the University and updates the documents periodically.



Major Publications- 2015



## Office of the Registrar



The Registrar's Office supports the academic mission of the University by providing management and administrative support and assistance to the academic community. This is achieved in accordance with academic policies and procedures established by the Private University Act 2010, rules and regulations formulated by the Ministry of Education, University Grants Commission, the Board of Trustees, Syndicate and Academic Council. The Registrar's Office plays a key role in the review, development and achievements of the goals and objectives of the University.

The Office serves as the repository of faculty information and schedules; course enrollments; course offerings; student records; grades; and degrees conferred. Such records are maintained using information systems and Web-services designed to enable students, academic advisers, staff, departments and programmes to conduct their professional duties in a decentralised environment.

It offers a wide range of academic and administrative services associated with admissions, records, registration, advising, graduation services, academic space management and scheduling for students, faculty and staff. It is also responsible for compliance with rules and regulations, policies and the Student Code of Conduct.

<b>STUDENT STATUS - 2015</b>			
Undergraduate			5983
Postgraduate			843
<b>Sub-total in BRACU</b>			<b>6,826</b>
<i>Postgraduate in School/Institutes</i>			
<b>JPGSPH (MPH)</b>		59	
<b>BIED</b>		72	
MEd	53		
MECD	19		
<b>BIGD</b>		199	
MAGD	34		
MDS	113		
MDMP	16		
MPSM	36		
<b>Total</b>			<b>330</b>
Total of all postgraduates		1173	
Diploma in Midwifery			404
<b>Total Students</b>			<b>7560</b>

The Office is divided into three operating offices:

1. The Admission Office
2. The Programme and Registration Office
3. The Transcript and Documentation Office

## ADMISSION OFFICE

At the outset of BRACU in 2001, the Admission Office initiated its activities for the enrollment of students under the guidance of Registrar's Office. The Office plays a vital role in managing and maintaining the University's central admission systems, policies and procedures. It is also responsible for fulfilling all the requirements related to students' admission procedures.

The table below shows an overview of registered students for the years 2013-2015:

Year	Undergraduate			Postgraduate		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2013	2815	1994	4809	697	468	1165
2014	3173	2143	5316	723	559	1282
2015	3412	2571	5983	674	903	1577

## PROGRAMME AND REGISTRATION OFFICE

The Programme and Registration Office is committed to facilitating administrative processes for students and faculty members through proper scheduling, effective student registration and planning academic calendar (Page: 143).

The Office is mainly responsible for the supervision and management of all administrative and operational functions which includes maintaining up-to-date semester course offerings; class and final examination scheduling and invigilation; managing efficient use of classrooms for courses and admission tests; providing student-related information; reporting to and assisting the management and other administrative offices on academic matters; ensuring course enrollment and registration through University Student Information System (USIS). In addition, it supports more than 7500 students' course registrations each semester.

In 2015, the Programme and Registration Office handled the registration process of 1341 students (755 male and 589 female) who enrolled for the Residential Semester (RS).

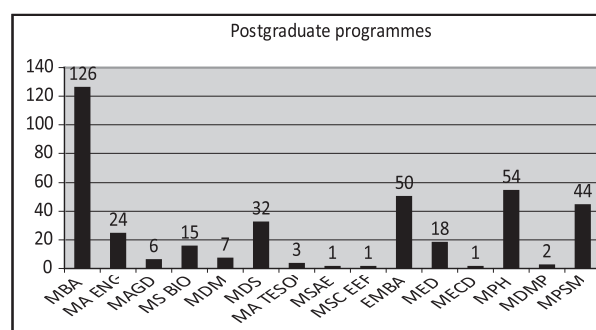
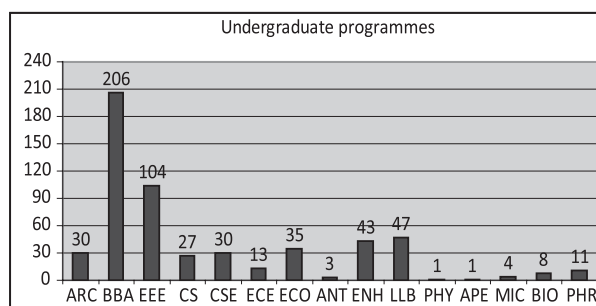
## TRANSCRIPT AND DOCUMENTATION OFFICE

The Transcript and Documentation Office is responsible for managing and maintaining academic records, ensuring the integrity of examinations and generating course transcripts and certificates. The office also verifies students' academic records and issues various certificates and letters pertaining to students' records and academic information.

Examinations are conducted every semester during the period indicated in the academic calendar. The examination timetables are displayed on notice boards and the BRACU website. The University views academic malpractice seriously and does not condone plagiarism or cheating in examinations. A breach of any rule will render a student liable to disciplinary action which may result in the student's expulsion from the University.

The University has in place standard operating procedures to ensure that examinations are conducted professionally and with integrity. Various security measures and levels of checks are in place for handling the examinations. The results and award lists are presented to the Academic Council and Syndicate for approval and to BoT for confirmation.

One of the biggest events supported by the Transcript and Documentation Office is the Convocation. In 2015, the 10<sup>th</sup> Convocation was held in Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. A total of 959 students (563 from undergraduate, 384



## Graduating Students-10<sup>th</sup> BRACU Convocation 2015

from post graduate and 12 from diploma level) were awarded the degrees at the event presided over by Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid, Hon'ble President, People's Republic of Bangladesh and Chancellor, BRACU. Mr. Matiur Rahman, Editor and Publisher, Daily Prothom Alo, attended the Convocation as the Convocation Speaker. Approximately 5,000 students, parents, faculty members, administrative staff and guests attended the function.



## IT SYSTEMS OFFICE

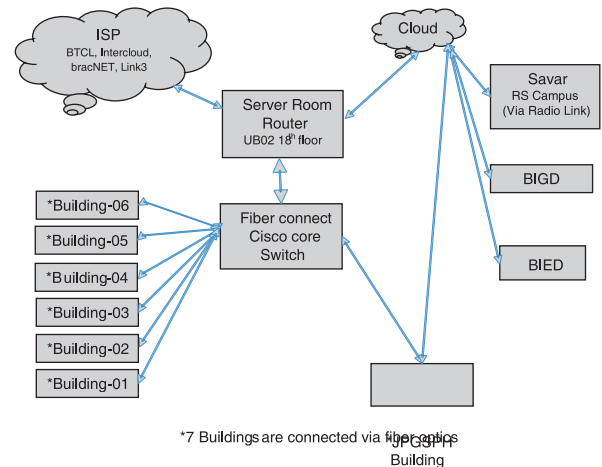
BRACU IT System Office supports and enhances BRACU core mission of education, research and service through the effective management and use of information technology. BRACU has a well-equipped video conferene centre operated in collaboration with GDLN. IT network covers two campuses, one in Mohakhali with 6-buildings connected by Optical Fibre backbone and another is located in Savar connected via Radio Link. In the Mohakhali campus, there are 67 well-equipped classrooms (computer, internet, MMP, OHP, audio) and 28 well-equipped computer labs.

### Facilities under BRACU IT System

- Over 2,030 computers
- Internet Bandwidth Capacity (310Mbps)
- Secured Mail Service (<https://mail.bracu.ac.bd>)
- Customized Student Advising Software
- IBM/HP Servers for students & faculty data storage

- 67 well-equipped classrooms (computer, internet, MMP, OHP, Audio)
- 28 well-equipped computer labs
- Strong antivirus for data security
- Instant IT Support: Over 50 IT personnel
- Layer-3 power backup system

**BRACU Network Diagram**





**BRAC University**  
66 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh

# YEAR PLANNER 2015

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January 2016
Sunday	1	1	1		31			30	1		1		31
Monday		2	2			1		31	2		2		
Tuesday		3	3			2			3		3		
Wednesday		4	4	1		3	1		4		4		
Thursday	1	5	5	2		4	2		5	1	5		
Friday	2	6	6	3	1	5	3		6	2	6		1
Saturday	3	7	7	4	2	6	4	1	7	3	7		2
Sunday	4	8	8	5	3	7	5	2	8	4	8		3
Monday	5	9	9	6	4	8	6	3	9	5	9		4
Tuesday	6	10	10	7	5	9	7	4	10	6	10		5
Wednesday	7	11	11	8	6	10	8	5	11	7	11		6
Thursday	8	12	12	9	7	11	9	6	12	8	12		7
Friday	9	13	13	10	8	12	10	7	13	9	13		8
Saturday	10	14	14	11	9	13	11	8	14	10	14		9
Sunday	11	15	15	12	10	14	12	9	15	11	15		10
Monday	12	16	16	13	11	15	13	10	16	12	16		11
Tuesday	13	17	17	14	12	16	14	11	17	13	17		12
Wednesday	14	18	18	15	13	17	15	12	18	14	18		13
Thursday	15	19	19	16	14	18	16	13	19	15	19		14
Friday	16	20	20	17	15	19	17	14	20	16	20		15
Saturday	17	21	21	18	16	20	18	15	21	17	21		16
Sunday	18	22	22	19	17	21	19	16	22	18	22		17
Monday	19	23	23	20	18	22	20	17	23	19	23		18
Tuesday	20	24	24	21	19	23	21	18	24	20	24		19
Wednesday	21	25	25	22	20	24	22	19	25	21	25		20
Thursday	22	26	26	23	21	25	23	20	26	22	26		21
Friday	23	27	27	24	22	26	24	21	27	23	27		22
Saturday	24	28	28	25	23	27	25	22	28	24	28		23
Sunday	25	29	29	26	24	28	26	23	29	25	29		24
Monday	26	30	30	27	25	29	27	24	30	26	30		25
Tuesday	27		31	28	26	30	28	25		27			26
Wednesday	28			29	27		29	26		28			27
Thursday	29			30	28		30	27		29			28
Friday	30				29		31	28		30			29
Saturday	31				30			29		31			30

\*Subject to appearance of the moon and subject to decision by the Government regarding the official holidays.

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## Office of Student Affairs

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The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at BRACU offers a wide complement of academic and co-curricular programmes to promote the core mission of liberal arts education and student development. Established in July 2013, the OSA houses essential student services and campus resources that provide academic, personal, and professional support to the students, facilitate teaching and learning, and augment University life.

The OSA brings together five autonomous offices into a system of student services framed by a holistic approach to academic and student support. These include the Counselling Unit, TLC, OCSAR, OCA and RMO. In addition, the OSA offers several new services that support student learning and development, such as the first-year advising teams, academic and learning workshops, and targeted services for at-risk and probation students. The mission of OSA is to enhance the teaching, learning, and mentoring of students and to promote a culture of collegiality, creativity and leadership in the University and community.

The services of the OSA reach out to all stakeholders of the University, from the students and parents to faculty and staff. The OSA works closely with academic departments, the Registrar's Office, and faculty and staff members across the University to foster and support the academic success, personal well-being, and professional development of students.

### **First Year Advising Team (FYAT)**

The newly reconstituted Office of Student Affairs (OSA) introduced the programme of First Year Advising Teams (FYAT) in order to facilitate the transition of all undergraduate students to the rigors of higher education and university life, inform students about the

academic requirements and resources, identify and support the learning needs, and provide academic guidance throughout their first year at BRACU. The FYAT programme has been subject to constant review and improvements, and has given rise to additional programmes to identify student learning needs and, in particular, provide targeted support to struggling students.

### **FYAT-DAY at Freshman Orientation**

The FYAT Day is held as a part of the Freshman Orientation programme. During 2015, the OSA organized the FYAT Day for Spring Semester on 17 January, Summer Semester on 5 May, and Fall Semester on 31 August.

### **Briefing for FYAT Advisers and Mentors**

As an integral part of the FYAT programme, the faculty advisers and peer student mentors take part in a "Briefing Session" at the UB-1 Auditorium where they are introduced to the objectives and activities to be undertaken throughout the next two semesters. Director of the Office of Student Affairs [OSA] and Teaching and Learning Centre [TLC] inaugurates the session. The faculty members of OSA & TLC give detailed explanations of the developmental advising procedures and schedules to the advisers and mentors and respond to queries from the participants regarding the programme. The programme organizers also distribute resource packets and advising manuals to the faculty advisers and student peer mentors. The briefing sessions for Spring, Summer and Fall semesters were held on 14 January, 27 April and 24 August 2015 respectively.



### Meeting with Parents at Freshman Orientation

As a part of the freshman orientation programme each semester, the RMO arranges an interactive session for parents and guardians with senior faculty of the University. During the session, the Director of Student Affairs and TLC introduces the student services and campus resources that support student learning and development at BRACU. The faculty of OSA and TLC introduce particular programmes of OSA and TLC such as FYAT, PASS, ASW, tutorials etc. The session is also addressed by one of the senior faculty of BIL, who speaks about the first-year curriculum and RS. In addition, representatives of the various Student Affairs offices provide detailed overviews of their respective programmes and services for students.

### Probation Advising & Student Support (PASS) programme

#### Introduction

The OSA established a comprehensive Probation Advising and Student Support (PASS) programme to provide both departmental and general academic support services to improve the retention of probation and at-risk students at BRACU. Based on these experiences, OSA developed a Probation Removal programme to develop a more comprehensive approach to probation removal and retention efforts at BRACU. The new efforts include a full-time Probation Adviser, introduction of academic support workshops designed and conducted by units of OSA, and coordination with departments to provide tutorial support in selected 100-level courses.

#### What Is Academic Probation Advising?

Academic Probation Advising is intended for the students who are on probation, to proactively plan and consult with their probation advisor on their academic programme in order to achieve educational and professional goals.

As the semester progresses, the University and/or the students may realize that they are not doing well in one or more courses. There are almost as many reasons for academic difficulties as there are students at University; from test-taking problems to lack of motivation, from roommate conflicts to uncertain major or career goals etc. The student, together with his/her probation advisor, discusses the possible reasons for difficulties, examines the consequences, and explores solutions.

### Programmes and Activities of 2015

1. Probation Removal and Student Retention Support in Spring 2015

A total of 60 last-chance-probation students and 143 first-time probation students were included in

the PASS programme for Spring' 15. Among the last chance probation students, 48 came for advising and PASS workshops. Out of the 60 last chance probation students, results of 55 students were analysed at the end of Spring'15 semester. Out of 55 students (including Pharmacy Department) 37 came out of probation, but 18 students failed to reach CGPA 2.00 and above.

2. Probation Removal and Student Retention Support in Summer 2015.

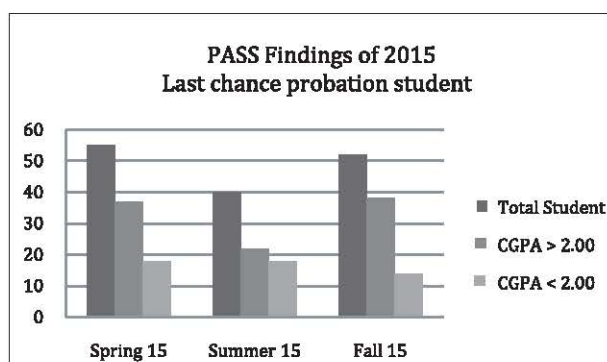
A total of 240 students were included in the PASS programme for Summer' 15. Out of these 240 students, 197 were on probation for the first time and 44 were considered for the last chance. 35 last-chance-probation students attended advising. A total number of 101 students attended the PASS workshops. At the end of Summer' 15 semester, the results of 40 students were analysed and 22 students were successful in removing their probation.

3. Probation Removal and Student Retention Support in Fall 2015

In Fall 2015, a total of 248 students were in probation, including both first-time and last-chance categories. 187 students were on first time probation and 61 got a last-chance to continue their studies. First-time probation students were jointly cared for by their respective departments and probation advisers at OSA and TLC. Out of 61 last-chance-probation students, 56 continued the semester. At the end of Fall 2015 semester, the results of 52 students were analysed. 38 out of 52 students successfully left probation. A total of 294 students participated in the series of PASS workshop.

### Conference/Workshop Proceedings

Raqui Quasem (2015): Cultural Assimilation & Attitude of Non-Native Middle School Students and Adults in Dhaka: A Comparative Study. Paper presented at 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Language, Literature, Culture and Education, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.





## Procurement Department



The Procurement Department (PD) is responsible for the acquisition of goods and services. The PD is the entity placed directly under the control of the Treasurer for financial affairs and the Registrar for administrative affairs. The department is currently operating with five officials. The functions of the PD are controlled by a policy guideline, "BRACU Procurement Procedures for Goods".

The PD is authorized to issue invitations to bid, requests for proposals, quotations and issue contracts. It issues purchase orders, develops term contracts, and acquires supplies and services.

The PD maintains a competitive bidding process in accordance with rules and regulations. It is the PD's policy to encourage the participation of qualified vendors in the bidding process, emphasizing opportunities for small businesses too.

The authority's overall objective is to ensure that goods and services are obtained expeditiously and economically meeting the operational requirements. Every procurement activity is facilitated through

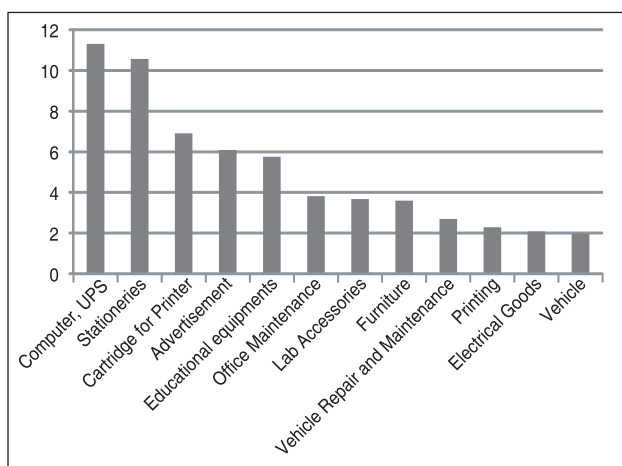
electronic means, i.e. email, fax and phone. The Department is also distributing products or commodities. The PD is responsible for accomplishing the following objectives:

- To procure required materials, equipment, services and others while ensuring that quality, safety, cost-effectiveness and timely delivery are achieved.
- To ensure that procurement transactions are conducted in the most efficient manner possible.
- To encourage competition among the suppliers of goods and services.
- To comply with procurement rules and regulations as required.
- To solicit the participation of all qualified and responsible contractors and suppliers in the procurement process.
- To enhance accountability of the authority and its participating officers for their procurement decisions and actions.
- To assure equity for all parties involved in the procurement process.
- To obtain the best value for money spent.

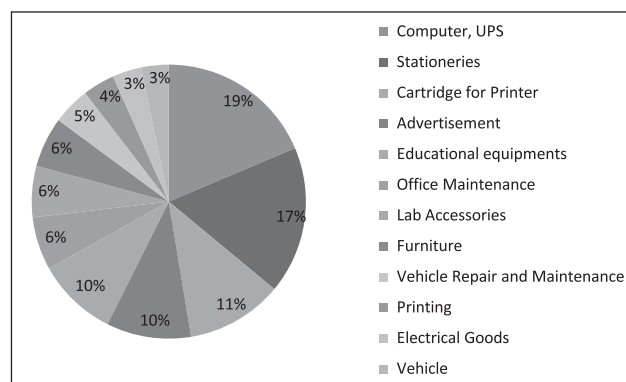
Table: Major Procurement Category Data: July 2014 to June 2015

Sl. No	Category	Amount (in taka)	Amount (in millions)
01	Computer, UPS	1,13,11,338	11.31
02	Stationeries	1,05,63,948	10.56
03	Cartridge for Printer	69,10,000	6.91
04	Advertisement	60,81,669	6.08
05	Educational equipments	57,45,390	5.75
08	Furniture & Fixture	54,05,493	5.41
06	Office Maintenance	38,17,066	3.82
07	Lab Accessories	36,74,564	3.67
10	Printing	31,13,528	3.11
09	Vehicle Repair and Maintenance	26,89,791	2.69
11	Electrical Goods	20,84,589	2.08
12	Vehicle	19,67,028	1.97
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,33,64,404</b>	<b>63.36</b>

Value Chart- July 2014 to June 2015



Value Chart- July 2014 to June 2015



Recently, the PD has started procurement activities for the construction of the new campus of BRACU, which is to be built in Merul Badda, Dhaka. Construction activities like earth filling, sand filling and other logistic activities have started in full force and one person from the Procurement team has been assigned to this project to work jointly with BRAC Head Office.

BRACU store is staffed by two personnel responsible for storing and distributing consumable products and commodities for users.



## Relationship Management Office



The Relationship Management Office (RMO) of BRACU is at the centre of aspects of management and student relations, student-conduct, consultations, disciplinary action, and conflict/dispute resolution. The goal of RMO is to establish and heighten mutual trust and acceptance within the campus community.

The team always strives to maintain a campus climate that is conducive to the educational mission of the University. RMO closely interacts with University management, administration, OSA and BRAC HO and is responsible for the tailored communication and presentation of BRACU for certain audiences. Its responsibilities include the brand positioning of BRACU in the national and international ranking of universities.

The core responsibilities of RMO are:

- 1) Managing the central information desk
- 2) Managing the BRACU Scholarships/Financial Aid programmes
- 3) Arranging engagement of scholarship awardees in productive jobs of BRACU
- 4) Arranging the Freshman Orientation programmes every semester
- 5) Managing BRACU female students' accommodation
- 6) Providing support services to international students
- 7) Students who are reported to have engaged in behaviour that violates University Student

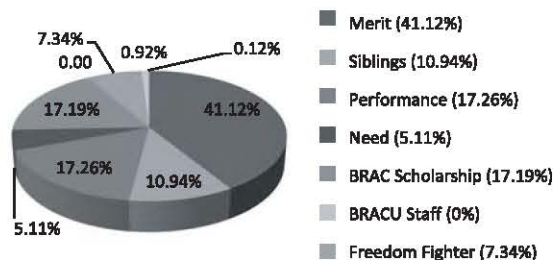
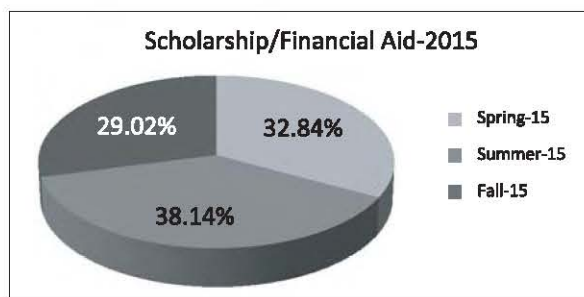
Conduct Procedures, are addressed through the student conduct process and encouraged to refrain from engaging in such behaviour again by means of a combination of educational, administrative and student conduct interventions.

- 8) The RMO manages and works closely with student volunteers. Volunteer Services provides a variety of programmes, especially the Convocation programme of BRACU.

The Education Fund is BRACU central scholarship programme, which serves as an umbrella fund for the BRACU Scholarships/Financial Aid programme. The scholarships are intended for particularly outstanding BRACU students. The RMO team supports the BRACU Scholarship Committee by providing data and information for raising funds for scholarships, the application process, selection and supervision of scholarship recipients and donors. Since its inception, the University has continued to see the strong impact of supporting the academic and needs-based scholarships of both undergraduate and graduate students. In 2014-2015, BRACU received a substantial amount of scholarship funds from local and foreign sponsors. The scholarship fund supports the investment in advanced education of extremely bright and economically disadvantaged students. RMO organizes visits to various reputed schools and colleges across the country to encourage bright and talented students to enroll in BRACU.

## Disbursement of Scholarship/Financial Aid in Spring 2015, Summer 2015 and Fall 2015:

	30 June, 2015 BDT	30 June, 2014 BDT
Full Tuition Fee Waiver	19,579,463	12,125,560
Partial Tuition fee waiver	99,703,468	95,191,798
Full Tuition Fee Waiver from Ford Scholarship		
Endowment Fund	6,859,490	5,086,993
Scholarship from OSF	1,387,000	-
Scholarship from Porticus	268,000	-
	<u>127,797,421</u>	<u>112,404,351</u>



## Highlights from 2015 Activities



BRACU Freshman Orientation programme - Summer 2015



Parents' Briefing on Freshman Orientation Day



BRAC Scholarship recipients having meeting with representative from BRAC, USA



BRACU Volunteers' Night - 2015



## Residential Semester



The Residential Semester (RS) at BRACU is a unique experience in university education in Bangladesh. All students are required to attend RS, usually after completion of their first semester at the main campus. What makes the programme exceptional is that for the first time, students live in a communal atmosphere and function as a team. During this experience, not only do they take responsibility for their own learning and actions, but also support their peers and, at times, lead teams. Through interactive classes and planned activities, they develop the collaborative and leadership skills needed to reach their goals. The curriculum, which was designed by a group of educational experts, includes English, Bangladesh Studies and Ethics and Culture. These classes help the students become global citizens, with an awareness of the needs of their country, their communities and their fellow students. Consequently, the RS students are expected to achieve the following objectives:

- improve English language skills
- develop leadership skills and identify the ethical guidelines and responsibilities of a leader

- experience community living and develop the skills to live in harmony
- respect the many forms of diversity
- analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the country
- identify the social responsibilities of a good citizen of their country and community

Since its inception in 2003, a total of 9,775 students have completed RS. In 2015, a total of 1,344 students attended the RS semester.

Semester	Male	Female	Total
Spring	238	192	430
Summer	261	201	462
Fall	256	196	452
Total	755	589	1,344

### Courses and Activities

One of the major focuses of the RS is to foster integration between academic and experiential learning. A range of Experiential Learning Activities (ELA) is offered to the students of RS and under the guidance and supervision of the instructors. The students take part in group work,



presentations, simulations and self-discovery experiences. ELA includes Social Learning Lab, Lalbagh and Liberation War Museum visit, BRAC programme visit, seminar and workshops, which are extended units of the academic courses Ethics and Culture, Bangladesh Studies and English. These unique experiences aim to facilitate the students in developing problem-solving and critical thinking skills that they can use in the real world.

Moreover, RS provides opportunities for the students to participate in sports, cultural activities, leadership-building activities and celebration of historical events. In 2015, programmes were organized at the Savar campus to celebrate International Mother Language Day (Ekushey February) and National Independence Day. The students, the faculty members and the administration officers all participated in these day-long programmes.

Every semester, the students of RS participate in the following activities:

Chinese Language, Korean Language, Know the Country and Culture, Quiz Competition, Debate, Spelling Bee, Creative Writing, Presentation Skills, Script writing & Film Making, Project Based Presentation, Traditional Bangla Music, Yoga and Meditation, Recycling, Drawing and Sketching, Hydroponic Vegetable Cultivation, Gardening.

In 2015, three new activities were introduced in RS: Paper Crafting, Recycling, Art and Photography. Also, a "Reading for Pleasure" programme was initiated. In 2015, students had to read at least one English novel during the semester. The books were taken from the large collection of English works that are available at the Savar campus library. This programme aims to encourage students to develop the habit of reading English books.

### **Seminars and Workshops**

The workshops and seminars that were reprised in 2015 were: "Seminar on Drug Abuse", "Story of BRAC", "Grooming and Etiquette", "Social Emotional Evening: An Evening with a Freedom Fighter", "Economic Development: Its Achievements and Challenges" and "Public Health Seminar".

### **Highlights**

Some new sessions and seminars were introduced in 2015.

#### **Session on 'Political Development (1971 - Present)'**

An integrated session on "Political Development of Bangladesh (1971 - Present)" took place at Markuli Hall at the Savar campus as part of the experiential learning activity of the Bangladesh Studies course. The purpose of this session was to give students an idea of the political development of Bangladesh, its dynamics and discourse (Bangladesh perspective), and its achievements and challenges since 1971. The main focus of the session was on the political scenario and the political culture of Bangladesh based on different regimes that have ruled Bangladesh since 1971. The session was facilitated by Professor Rashed Uz Zaman, Ph.D., Department of International Relations, DU. The students participated in the session with great enthusiasm. The interactive mode of presentation made the session interesting and successful.

#### **Session on 'Planning for your Future'**

In 2015, the "Planning for your Future" session was added to the usual set of sessions held every semester. The session was facilitated by Sayed Taher Ahmed, Consultant, Learning and Development of Enroute Career Development Center. All the RS students keenly participated in the session. The main objectives of this session were to create awareness among students about the challenges after graduation, change their mindset to think and be positive and start preparation for the next stage of their lives.

#### **Friendly Basketball Match between RS students and the participants of PDF**

BRACU RS organized a basketball match where BRACU students competed with the Basketball Team of Physically Challenged Development Foundation (PDF). The objective of this programme was to create social awareness among BRACU students, make them realize that the people whom we refer to as 'disabled', are in fact 'differently able' and they can work for society and contribute in their own way. Through this experience, students are expected to become conscious about their own responsibilities towards the 'differently able', display their duties through community service and voluntary role-play and, eventually, create a positive ambience in society.

#### **Sky Observation**

The Bangladesh Astronomical Association and National Institute of Science were invited to the



BRACU Savar campus to conduct a sky observation for the RS students in 2015. This programme aimed at giving the students a unique chance to explore the unlimited sky with its innumerable stars, planets and many other celestial bodies.

### **Seminar on Good Governance and Public Administration**

The 'Public Administration and Good Governance in Bangladesh' seminar was initiated in 2015. The session was facilitated by Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan, former Chairman, Department of Development Studies, DU; former (2009-11). The purpose of this session was to help students know the structure of the government and critically think about the existing governing system in our country.

### **Seminar on Diversity**

A session on "Cultural Diversity and Inclusiveness" was organized at the BRACU Savar campus for the students of RS in 2015. Professor Afsan Chowdhury, BRACU and a BRAC official conducted the session with a group of facilitators from BRAC Learning Centre. The objective of the session was to familiarize students with the concept of diversity and inclusion and the importance of acquiring knowledge about these issues and inculcating practices that would enable us to establish a nurturing community, where everyone will have an equal opportunity to fulfil

their potential. Through this session, students were exposed to the current essential components of global society that will equip them with the knowledge of good practices for everyday life.

### **National Memorial Cleanup programme**

A 'clean-up' work, initiated during the 2015 semesters, took place at the National Martyrs Memorial, Savar. Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Vice Chancellor, BRACU, inaugurated the programme. A total of 60 students participated in the programme to clean up the surroundings of the memorial site. Students were divided into five groups, and they worked at five different locations of the National Memorial. The main objective of the event was to enhance the spirit of patriotism among the students and to make them realize the dignity and sacrifices made by struggling people.

### **English learning course for Service staff**

A total of 75 service staff from different levels such as office assistants, cooks, dishwashers, room service attendants, electricians, gardeners and others participated in a basic English language programme through which they were taught how to interact with students, teachers and management staff in English in the work place. By the end of the three-month programme, a group of enthusiastic learners gained the basic aptitude to communicate in English with great confidence.



*Friendly Basketball Match between RS students and the participants of PDF*



*Cleanup programme at National Martyrs Memorial, Savar by RS students*

## Partners in Education

### BRAC Business School (BBS)

- Asian Institute of Management, Manila
- Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok
- Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, USA
- University of South Australia

### James P Grand School of Public Health (JPGSPH)

#### International

- Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, World Health Organization
- The World Bank
- WHO TDR

#### North America

- Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, United States
- School of Medicine, Stanford University, United States
- Centre for Communication Programme (CCP), Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, United States

#### South America

- National School of Public Health Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia

#### Europe

- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
- Newcastle University, United Kingdom
- University of Heidelberg, Germany

#### Africa

- School of Public Health, Makerere University, Uganda
- Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, Ethiopia
- University of the Western Cape, South Africa
- School of Public Health, University of Ghana, Ghana
- School of Public Health, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa
- Department of Public Health, University of Zambia, Zambia

#### Asia

- Public Health Foundation of India
- University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Hanoi School of Public Health, Vietnam
- School of International Health, Nagasaki University

- Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
- Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

#### Australia

- The University of South Wales, Australia

### Research Partners

#### National

- International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh
- Directorate General Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh
- Finance and Governance Project, ABT ASSOCIATES INC
- Management Sciences for Health (MSH), Bangladesh
- Ayesha Abed Foundation
- Institute of Public Health, Bangladesh
- Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction, Bangladesh
- Bangladesh Institute of Theatrical Arts
- Dustha Shasthya Kendra, Bangladesh
- Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, ShSMC, Bangladesh
- Marie Stopes Bangladesh (MSB)
- Unite for Body Rights, Bangladesh
- Gender Justice and Diversity Programme, BRAC
- Ashar Alo Society
- Mukto Akash Bangladesh
- Hope Care Center
- Confidential Approach to AIDS Prevention, Bangladesh
- Health, Nutrition and Population Programme, BRAC
- National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)
- Reproductive Health Services Training and Education Program (RHSTEP)
- Institute of Nutrition and Food Science (INFS), University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- BRAC Tuberculosis Control programme
- National Tuberculosis Program, Bangladesh
- Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)
- Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP)
- Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)



- RTM International

#### **International**

- Sightsavers
- Rutgers WPF
- Helen Keller International

#### **North America**

- The O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law (Georgetown University), United States
- Dalla Lana School of Public Health (University of Toronto), Canada
- Engender Health, United States

#### **Europe**

- Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Belgium
- University of Heidelberg, Germany
- University of Oxford, United Kingdom
- University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
- Medico International, Germany
- Center for the Study of Equity and Governance in Health Systems, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
- Norwegian Human Rights Center (University of Oslo), Norway
- International Research Consortium on Dengue Risk Assessment (IDMAS) in University of Heidelberg, Germany
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
- Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Amsterdam, Netherlands
- MDF Training and Consultancy B.V., the Netherlands
- Institute of Gender Studies, Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands
- Share-Net International, the Netherlands

#### **Africa**

- Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (Cehurd), Uganda
- University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Liverpool Voluntary Counselling and Testing for HIV (LVCT), Kenya
- Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique
- Reach Trust, Malawi
- Hidase Hulentenawi Agelglot Yebego Adragot Mahber, Ethiopia

#### **Asia**

- Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology, Indonesia
- Nagasaki University School of International

Health Development, Japan

- Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA), India

#### **Australia**

- University of Queensland, Australia

#### **Training Partners**

##### **National**

- BRAC
- BRAC University
- BRAC Development Institute
- Center for Climate Change and Environmental Research
- Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage
- International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh
- Institute for Governance Studies
- Institute of Public Health Nutrition
- National Nutritional Services
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh

##### **International**

- United Nations Children's Fund
- The World Bank
- Rockefeller Foundation

##### **North America**

- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, United States
- The International Development Research Centre, Canada
- The United States Agency for International Development, United States

##### **Europe**

- The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Germany
- GmbH, Germany
- Netherlands Universities Foundation for International Cooperation, the Netherlands

#### **Advocacy Partners**

##### **National**

- Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)

##### **International**

##### **North America**

- Rockefeller Foundation

**Europe**

- Share-Net International, the Netherlands
- SIDA, Sweden
- Riksförbundet För Sexuell Upplysning (RFSU), Sweden

**Africa**

- Share-Net Burundi

**Asia**

- Share-Net Jordan

**Diploma in Midwifery Education Program****National**

- Shimantik and Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB) in Sylhet Garo Baptist Convention
- Christian Healthcare Project (GBC-CHP) in Mymensingh; Hope Foundation in Cox's Bazar Partners in Health and Development (PHD) in Khulna Lutheran Aid to Medicine in Bangladesh (LAMB) in Dinajpur National partners:
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) BRAC Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council (BNMC) Bangladesh Midwifery Society (BMS) Directorate of Nursing Services (DNS) Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB)

**International**

- University of Aberdeen, Scotland
- Jhpiego - an organisation affiliated with Johns Hopkins University, USA

**BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED)**

- Bank Street College of Education, New York, USA
- BRAC Education Programme (BEP)
- Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE)
- Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH)
- Department for International Development (DFID)
- Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), Bangladesh
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN)
- Institute of Education & Research (IER), Dhaka University
- National Curriculum & Textbook Board (NCTB), Bangladesh
- Nuffic
- Phulki

- Porticus
- Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands
- Teach for Bangladesh
- Underprivileged Children's Education Program (UCEP)
- Unite for Body Rights (UBR) Alliance
- World Bank
- Aga Khan Foundation, Canada
- Columbia University, New York, USA
- George Washington University
- Washington, DC, USA
- National University of Educational
- Planning and Administration, New Delhi
- Open Society Institute - London
- Portland State University, USA
- University of Massachusetts, USA
- University of Sussex, UK
- Victoria University, Canada
- Yale University, USA

**Department of English and Humanities (ENH)**

- Partners in Education
- Umeå University, Sweden
- Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Consortium

**Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS)**

- BRAC ARDC, Gazipur, Bangladesh
- BIRDEM, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- CNRS, CEA, Grenoble, France
- ICDDR,B, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- BCSIR
- Bangladesh University of Health Science (BUHS)
- idesHi
- Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS)
- Grenoble, France
- BAEC

**Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE)**

- Electrical Engineering Department, Frederick University, Cyprus
- Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, BRAC University, Bangladesh
- Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, United International University, Bangladesh
- Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh
- School of Electrical Engineering and Computer



Science, National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan

- School of Engineering, Kathmandu University, Nepal
- School of Engineering, Bangkok University, Thailand
- Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Malaya, Malaysia
- Department of Electronic and Information, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
- Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, Dortmund University of Technology, Germany
- Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, University of Limerick, Ireland
- College of Science and Technology, Royal University of Bhutan
- School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, City University London
- PolitechnikaWroc?awska, Poland
- Faculty of Mathematic and Natural Sciences, InstitutTeknologi Bandung, Indonesia
- Department of Electronic Engineering, Southeast University, China

#### **Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)**

- Kyushu Institute of Technology
- TechShopBD
- EATL
- University of Ulsan, Korea

#### **Department of Architecture (ARC)**

- University of Manchester
- Lancaster University
- University of Illinois, Chicago
- EMMA Asia (Erasmus Mundus Mobility with Asia)
- AGA Khan Cultural Trust
- British Council
- Loughborough University
- Bengal Institute for Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements

## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee advises the Syndicate and BoT on all financial matters; both operational and strategic. The Committee also formulates the Annual Budget, Annual Financial Statements and any other financial proposals of the University and refers to the BoT through the Syndicate, for approval.

### *Chairperson*

**Professor Mahabub Hossain, Ph.D.**  
Distinguished Professor & Chairperson  
Department of Economics and Social Sciences BRAC University

### *Members*

**Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.**  
Vice Chancellor  
BRAC University

**Advocate Sultana Kamal**  
Executive Director  
Ayn o Salish Kendro (ASK)

**Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, Ph.D.**  
Pro-Vice Chancellor  
BRAC University

**Mr. S. N. Kalry**  
Chief Financial Officer  
BRAC and BRAC International

**Mr. Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury**  
Chairperson, BRACNet Ltd  
and Member BRACU BoT

**Mr. Sukhendra Kumar Sarkar**  
Treasurer  
BRAC University

### *Member Secretary*

**Mr. Monojit Kumar Ojha, ACA**  
Director, Finance  
BRAC University

### **Meetings**

Three meetings of the Finance Committee took place on March 15, June 14 and December 13, 2015.



## Faculty Selection Committee

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The Faculty Selection Committee shall review all applications for faculty appointments, interview the applicants and recommend the appointments of all faculty members.

### *Chairperson*

**Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.**  
Vice Chancellor  
BRAC University

### *Members*

**Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, Ph.D.**  
Pro-Vice Chancellor  
Chairperson, Department of Architecture  
BRAC University

**Professor Anisuzzaman**  
Professor Emeritus, Dhaka University  
Member, Board of Trustees & Syndicate  
BRAC University

**Mr. Faruq Ahmad Choudhury**  
Chairman  
Delta BRAC Housing  
Member, Board of Trustees & Syndicate  
BRAC University

**Professor Dilara Chowdhury, Ph.D.**  
Former Professor  
Department of Government and Politics  
Jahangir Nagar University

Head or Chairperson of the concerned Institute/School/Department

One External Member for Concerned Institute/School/Department

### **Meetings**

Twelve meetings of the Faculty Selection Committee took place on January 7, February 7, April 9, April 21, June 2, July 5, August 26, August 31, September 9, December 7, December 10 and December 31, 2015.

## Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee is charged with ensuring student discipline in all fields of university activity; both academic and non academic. The committee reviews all discipline cases referred to it and recommends appropriate administrative actions against the violators of discipline and reviews broader policy implications of these cases.

### *Chairperson*

**Mr. Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury**

Chairperson, BRACNet Ltd and Member BRACU BoT

### *Members*

**Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb, Ph.D.**

Vice Chancellor  
BRAC University

**Professor Rahim B. Talukder, Ph.D.**

Adviser (Dean Status)  
BRAC Business School  
BRAC University

**Professor K. Shamsuddin Mahmood**

Dean  
School of Law  
BRAC University

**Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad, Ph.D.**

Chairperson, Department of Mathematics and  
Natural Sciences  
BRAC University

**Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**

Director, BRAC Institute of Languages  
BRAC University

### *Co-opted Members*

**Ms. Amina Hasan Abedin**

Assistant Professor  
Dept. of Electrical & Electronic Engineering  
BRAC University

**Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh**

Assistant Professor  
BRAC Business School  
BRAC University

**Ms. Nazmus Sabeka**

Senior Assistant Registrar  
BRAC University

### *Member Secretary*

**Muhammad Sahool Afzal**

Major General (Retired)  
Registrar  
BRAC University

### **Meetings**

Six meetings of the Disciplinary Committee took place on January 6, March 29, May 7, June 20, September 7, and December 30, 2015.



## Auditor's Report

**A. QASEM & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants Since 1953

Gulshan Pink City  
Suites # 01-03, Level : 7, Plot # 15, Road # 103  
Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka - 1212, Bangladesh

Phone: 880-2-8881824-6  
Fax : 880-2-8881822  
E-mail : aqasem@aqcbd.com

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT To the Board of Trustees of BRAC University

#### Report On the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of BRAC University ("the University") which comprise the balance sheet as at June 30, 2015, and the income & expenditure statement and the cash flow statement for the period from 1 July, 2014 to 30 June 2015 and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory Information.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies summarized in Note 2 of the financial statement and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing as adopted in Bangladesh. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluation the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

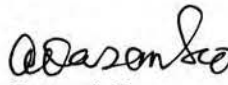
#### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of BRAC University as of June 30, 2015, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the period then ended in accordance with the accounting policies summarized in Note 2 of the financial statements.

#### Other Matter

The financial statements of the university as at and for the year ended 30 June 2014 were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those statements on 19 March 2015.

Dated, Dhaka  
28 December 2015

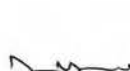
  
**A. Qasem & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants


**A.QASEM & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants Since 1953

**BRAC University**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**as at 30 June 2015**

University Grant Commission (UGC) prescribed form ref. PUFR-V (3)

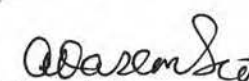
Particulars	Notes No.	30 June 2015	30 June 2014
		BDT	BDT
ASSETS:			
Fixed Assets	4	3,451,166,920	3,225,645,961
Long Term Investment	5	95,000,000	95,000,000
Current Assets	6	1,885,604,875	1,185,852,954
Current Liabilities	7	750,375,578	493,065,741
Net Current Assets		1,135,229,298	692,787,212
FUND EMPLOYED		4,681,396,218	4,013,433,174
FINANCED BY:			
Reserve Fund	8	50,000,000	50,000,000
General Fund	9	68,062,056	56,958,186
Special Fund	10	3,892,210,518	3,524,290,036
Accumulated Depreciation Fund	11	377,560,725	283,774,136
Total Fund		4,387,833,299	3,915,022,358
Long Term Liabilities	12	109,082,917	80,008,543
Deferred Liabilities	13	184,480,002	18,402,273
Total Liabilities		293,562,919	98,410,816
FINANCED BY		4,681,396,218	4,013,433,174

  
Treasurer

  
Member of Board of Trustees

  
Chairperson of Board of Trustees

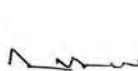
Dated, Dhaka  
28 December 2015


  
**A. Qasem & Co.**  
Chartered Accountants



**BRAC University**  
**Income & Expenditure Statement**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2015**  
 University Grant Commission (UGC) prescribed form ref. PUFR-V (1)

Particulars	Notes No.	30 June 2015 BDT	30 June 2014 BDT
<b>A) Income - Academic</b>			
Admission Income (Sale of Forms)	14	19,998,304	13,048,555
Academic Income	15	1,216,454,684	1,101,860,221
<b>Total Income (Academic)</b>		<b>1,236,452,987</b>	<b>1,114,908,776</b>
<b>B) Expenditure -Academic</b>			
Academic Expenses	16	900,645,754	788,084,726
Admission Expenses	17	12,765,339	16,627,011
Academic Research Expenses	18	4,652,118	4,989,662
Publications Expenses	19	1,746,800	1,319,455
<b>Total Expenses (Academic)</b>		<b>919,810,011</b>	<b>811,020,854</b>
<b>C) Excess of Income over Expenses –Academic(A-B)</b>		<b>316,642,976</b>	<b>303,887,922</b>
<b>D) Income -Non Academic</b>			
Non-Academic Income	20	633,193,971	473,735,548
<b>E) Total Operating Income (C+D)</b>		<b>949,836,947</b>	<b>777,623,470</b>
<b>F) Expenditure –Non Academic</b>			
Non Academic Expenses	21	304,494,617	221,550,737
Non Academic Research Expenses	22	515,646,682	394,221,348
<b>Total Non Academic Expenses</b>		<b>820,141,298</b>	<b>615,772,085</b>
<b>G) Excess of Income over Expenses (Operating E-F)</b>		<b>129,695,649</b>	<b>161,851,385</b>
<b>H) Financial Income-Interest Income/Profit from Investment</b>	23	106,888,494	100,412,321
Less: Financial Expenses	24	480,272	524,386
<b>Excess of Financial Income over Expenses</b>		<b>106,408,222</b>	<b>99,887,935</b>
<b>I) Net Excess of Income over Expenses (G+H)</b>		<b>236,103,870</b>	<b>261,739,320</b>

  
 Treasurer

  
 Member of Board of Trustees

Dated, Dhaka  
28 December 2015

  
 Chairperson of Board of Trustees

  
 A.Qasem & Co.  
 Chartered Accountants

**BRAC University**  
**Cash Flow Statement (Indirect Method)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2015**  
 University Grant Commission (UGC) prescribed form ref. PUFR-V (2)

Particulars	30 June 2015	30 June 2014
	BDT	BDT
<b>A) Cash Flow from Operating Activities:</b>		
Excess of Income over Expenses	245,219,598	288,558,644
Non Cash Expenses	279,299,559	80,146,135
Change of Working Capital	107,555,791	225,249,074
<i>Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities</i>	<b>632,074,949</b>	<b>593,953,853</b>
<b>B) Cash Flow from Investing Activities:</b>		
Purchase of Fixed Assets/ Investments	(887,327,225)	(404,513,703)
Less Sale Proceeds of Fixed Assets/Investments	5,684,389	450,500
<i>Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities</i>	<b>(881,642,836)</b>	<b>(404,063,203)</b>
<b>C) Cash Flow from Financing Activities:</b>		
Increase of Finance/Loan	151,434,971	10,916,483
Decrease of Finance/Loan	-	-
<i>Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities</i>	<b>151,434,971</b>	<b>10,916,483</b>
Net increase /(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(98,132,916)	200,807,133
Cash and cash equivalents at the Beginning of the Year	470,218,713	269,411,579
<b>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents at the end of the Year</b>	<b>372,085,797</b>	<b>470,218,713</b>



## List of Acronyms

Abbreviation	Elaboration	Abbreviation	Elaboration
AAA	Arcasia Awards for Architecture	BIVPS	Bangladesh Visually Impaired People's Society
AAF	Australian Award Fellowship	BIZBEE	BRAC Business Club
ACHR	Asian Coalition for Housing Rights	BLAST	Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust
ADB	Asian Development Bank	BMS	Bangladesh Mathematical Society
AECD	Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka	BNMC	Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council
AIA	American Institute of Architects	BoT	Board of Trustees
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology	BPATC	Bangladesh Public Administration and Training Centre
APAP	Asia Pacific Agricultural Policy	BPC	Business Plan Competition
APN	Asia-Pacific Network	BPS	Bangladesh Physical Society
APUF	Asia Pacific Urban Forum	BRAC CDM	BRAC Center for Development Management
ARCASIA	Architects' Regional Council of Asia	BRAC-SNDK	BRAC Sanitary Napkin and Delivery Kit
Arch.KIDS	Architecture for Kids	BRACU	BRAC University
ASA	Association for Social Advancement	BSM	Bangladesh Society of Microbiology
ASC	Advocacy for Social Change	BUAC	BRAC University Adventure Club
ASLE	Association for the Study of Literature and Environment	BUAS	BRAC University Art Society
B.Sc.ECE	Bachelor of Science in Electronic and Communication Engineering	BUCC	BRAC University Computer Club
B.Sc.EEE	Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering	BUCHC	BRAC University Chess Club
BAEC	Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission	BUCuC	BRAC University Cultural Club
BAPTC&B	Bangladesh Association for Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology	BUDC	Debating Club
BARC	Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council	BUDTF	BRAC University Drama and Theatre Forum
BASIS	Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services	BUHF	BRAC University Heritage Forum
BBA	Bachelor of Business Administration	BUIGC	BRAC University Indoor Games Club
BBS	BRAC Business School	BULC	BRAC University Law Club
BCAS	Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies	BUMCS	BRAC University Moot Court Society
BCC	Bangladesh Computer Council	BUET	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
BCCT	Bangladesh Climate Change Trust	BUMA	BRAC University Marketing Association
BCDM	BRAC Centre for Development Management	C3ER	Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research
BCSIR	Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research	CAN	Community Architects Network
BDOSN	Bangladesh Open Source Network	CAP	Creative Arts Program
BEP	BRAC Education Program	CARC	Control & Applications Research Centre
BEPZA	Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority	CBO	Community Based Organization
B-HIP	BRAC Health Care Innovations Program	CDMP	Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme
BHSP	BRAC Health Security Program	CED	Centre for Entrepreneurship Development
BICC	Bangabandhu International Conference Center	CEP	Continuing Education Program
BIDS	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies	CGSRHR	Centre for Gender Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights
BIED	BRAC Institute of Educational Development	CGST	The Centre for Gender and Social Transformation
BIGD	BRAC Institute of Governance and Development	CIMA	Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
BIL	BRAC Institute of Languages	CIPS	Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply
BITs	BRAC IT Services Limited	CoE-UHC	Centre of Excellence for Universal Health Coverage

Abbreviation	Elaboration	Abbreviation	Elaboration
CoP	Community of Practice	GSB	Geological Survey of Bangladesh
COP	Conference of the Parties	HBRI	House Building Research Institute
CPTU	Central Procurement Technical Unit	HE	Higher Education
CRP	Centre of Rehabilitation for the Paralyzed	HEQEP	Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project
CSCM	Certified Supply Chain Manager	HPAIR	Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations
CSE	Computer Science and Engineering	HRH	Human Resources for Health
CUEH	Centre for Urban Equity and Health	I3CWE	International Conference on Climate Change in relation to Water and Environment
CUS	Centre for Urban Studies	IACS	Inter-Asia Cultural Studies
DevPro	Development Professional	ICAEE	International Conference on Advances in Electrical Engineering
DEWS	Department of English Writing Service	ICCCAD	International Centre for Climate Change and Development
DMCC	Disaster Management and Climate Change	ICDDR,B	International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh
DMN	Department of Midwifery and Nursing	ICGEB	The International Centre for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology
DMP	Developing Midwives Project	ICOLSI	International Conference of Linguistic Society of India
DOE	Department of Environment	ICT	Information Communications Technology
DPE	Directorate of Primary Education	IDCOL	Infrastructure Development Company Limited
DU	University of Dhaka	IdesHI	Institute for Developing Science and Health Initiatives
DUET	Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology	IDRC	International Development Research Centre
EAP	English for Academic Purposes	IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
EATL	Ethics Advanced Technology Limited	IGC	International Growth Centre
ECCD	Effect of Early Childhood Care and Development	IIC	India International Center
EEE	The Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering	IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
EG	Economic Growth	INTACT	It's Time for Collaboration Toward Close Cooperation
ELA	Experiential Learning Activities	IPC	International Project Catalyst
EL-Pro	English Language Program	IQAC	Institutional Quality Assurance Cell
ELT	English Language Teaching	ITEE	Information Technology Engineers Examination
EMBA	Executive Master of Business Administration	ITES	Information Technology Enabled Service
EMG	Environmental Management and Governance	IZA	Institute of Labor Studies
EMMAAsia	Erasmus Mundus Mobility with Asia	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
ERD	Economic Relations Division	JPGSPH	James P. Grant School of Public Health
ESP	English for Specific Purposes	KPI	Key performance indicator
ESS	Department of Economics & Social Sciences	LAMP	Learning Achievement, Materials and Pedagogy
EU	European Union	LCD	Low Carbon Development
FCGH	Framework Convention on Global Health	LSP	Language for Specific Purposes
FLTA	Foreign Language Teaching Assistant	M.Engg.EEE	Masters of Engineering in Electrical and Electronic Engineering
FYAT	First Year Advising Team	M.Sc.EEE	Masters of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering
GED	General Economic Division		
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit		
GNOBB	Global Network of Bangladeshi Biotechnologists		
GOB	Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh		
GP	Governance and Politics		
GPMS	Government performance management system		
GRIPS	The National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies		
GS	Gender Studies		



Abbreviation	Elaboration	Abbreviation	Elaboration
MAGD	MA in Governance and Development	SA	Self-Assessment
MBA	Master of Business Administration	SABP	The South Asia Biosafety Program
MBM	Master of Bank Management	SAC	Self Assessment Committee
MDMP	Masters in Development Management and Practice	SAR	South Asian Regional
MDS	Master of Development Studies	SAR	Self-Assessment Report
MEF	Ministry of Environment and Forest	SAURN	South Asian Urban Research Network
MFA	Multi-Fiber agreement	SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
MGA	Member and Geographic Activities	SECS	School of Engineering and Computer Science
MLARR	Management of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation	SHED	Shocks to Health Systems in Emergencies and Disasters
MNS	Mathematics and Natural Sciences	SIAPS	Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceutical Services
MOS&T	Ministry of Science and Technology	SLP	Summative Learning Project
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	SOB	Survey of Bangladesh
MPH	Master of Public Health	SoC	State of Cities
MPSM	Masters in Procurement and Supply Management	SoG	State of Governance
MUN	Model United Nations	SPARRSO	Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization
NAED	Noman Award for Excellence in Design	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights
NASA	The National Aeronautics and Space Administration	SRHRG	Sexual, Reproductive Rights and Health & Gender
NCTB	National Curriculum and Textbook Board	SS	Shomaj Shongee
NDA	National Designated Authority	SSCOPE	Schooling, SRHR, Gender, and Counseling for the Children of Post-Primary Education
NGO	Non Government Organization	TESOL	Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
NGPHEP	Next Generation Public Health Experts Project	TLC	Teaching and Learning Centre
NICHE	Netherlands Initiatives for Capacity Development in Higher Education	ToT	Training of Trainers
NOAMI	National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute	TVET	Technical Vocational Educational Training
NORI	National Oceanographic Research Institute	UBR	Unite for Body Rights
Nuffic	Netherlands Universities foundation for International Cooperation	UCCE	Urban, Climate change and Environment Cluster
NUS	National University of Singapore	UCGS	Umeå Center for Gender Studies
OCA	Office of Co-curricular Activities	UCL	University College London
OGSB	Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh	UGC	University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
OSA	Office of Student Affairs	UHC	Universal Health Coverage
PACE	Post-primary basic And Continuing Education	ULAB	University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh
PDF	Physically Challenged Development Foundation	UN	United Nations
PGD	Politics, Governance and Democracy	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
Ph.D.	Doctor of Philosophy	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
POCAA	Platform of Community Action and Architecture	URC	Upazilla Resource Centre
PSY101	Psychology 101	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
PSY421	Psychology 421	USCF	United States Chess Federation
QA	Quality Assurance	USQ	University of Southern Queensland
QAC	Quality Assurance Committee	UTM	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
QAU	Quality Assurance Unit	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
RATB	Rafiq Azam Travel Bursary	WB	World Bank
RCC	Recognizing Consent and Choice	WC	Writing Centre
RED	Research and Evaluation Division	YLD	Young Leader's Dialogue
RS	Residential Semester		