



## BRAC University Bulletin

2011/november

### BRACU Library launched the first RFID system in Bangladesh



BRAC University Ayesha Abed Library is the first among the university libraries in Bangladesh has launched the Radio Frequency Identification (**RFID**) System in the library. The official launching ceremony of **RFID** system was held on 30th October 2011. The Vice Chancellor of BRAC University **Professor Ainun Nishat** officially inaugurated the newly

established **RFID** System. **Ms Hasina Afroz**, Librarian of BRAC University gave a briefing on the use of the new system. Library professionals from different universities and institutes, and faculty and students of BRAC University were present at this ceremony. Integration of **RFID** at BRACU Library ensures considerable security and adequately facilitates for librarians to provide more value added services to users in digital environment and work comfortably for a digital future.

### ARC Updates

#### Professor Fuad Mallick attended and made a presentation at an international conference

**Professor Fuad Mallick** attended and made a presentation at the Dealing with Disasters conference held at Glamorgan University in Wales, UK on 28th November, 2011. His presentation was entitled "Towards a Disaster Resilient Habitat" which highlighted the BRACU - BRAC project in building a disaster resilient habitat in the Aila affected area in Satkhira. The conference was attended by academics and researchers from all over the world.

#### Demonstration lectures on 'Music Appreciation'

'Music Appreciation' a course in the Department of Architecture, BRAC University organized several demonstration lectures throughout the semester. On 23rd October, 2011, **Shaheen Samad**, a renowned singer of Nazrul Geeti in Bangladesh gave a demonstration lecture on Nazrul songs. On 13th November, 2011, **Shamim Ara Nipa**, the famous dancer who participated in many performances in and outside Bangladesh gave a demonstration on dance. This was followed by the

performances of **Saadi Mohammad**, one of the leading Tagore singers and **Mustafa Zaman Abbasi**, son of Late **Abbas Uddin Ahmed**, an icon of Bengali folk music. They delivered demonstration lectures on Rabindra Sangeet and Folk Music on 20th and 27th November 2011 respectively. The aim of such arrangement is to enhance the student's understanding and appreciation of music. All these lectures were open to all students and faculties of BRAC University. The course is taught by **Sadi Mohammad, Professor Zainab F. Ali and Rabeya Rahman**.

### Angan lecture

Three lecture sessions were conducted in the month of November under the Angan Lecture series of the Department of Architecture. **Md. Nafizur Rahman**, Senior Research Architect of Housing Division of HBRI delivered a lecture on the current research works of Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI) on 15th November, 2011. The next lecture was made by **Mr. Ahsan Habib**, eminent cartoonist of Bangladesh on 22nd November, 2011. The last lecture was given by **Sloan Kulper**, a Fulbright Fellow from USA on 24th November. Based on his academic research work in Bangladesh, he made a presentation, titled 'A possible future for design in Bangladesh'.

### Tour to Gazipur

Students of the course ARC 201- Design Studio III visited Gazipur on 24th November, 2011 on a day- long trip. They visited a contemporary project; **Mr. Majid's** vacation house. Three Faculty members **Sajid Bin Doza, Rubaiya Sultana** and **Rahat Mujib Niaz** accompanied the students. The Vacation house was designed by architect **Shamsul** Wares. The tour was arranged to study the project in the context of their assigned project.

### BBS Updates

#### EMBA residential weekend



The EMBA residential weekend for the Fall semester of 2011 was held at Savar BCDM on the 17th and 18th of November 2011. A total of 40 students participated in the program. The program comprised of sessions on Business Strategy in the real world, Business Ethics, and Business Etiquette. The speakers included **Mr. Sarwar Ahmed**, Managing Director, Syngenta Limited; and **Dr. Akbar Ali Khan**, Professor, BRAC Business School. The

overall organization of the program was done by **Mr. Javed Rasel**, DCO, EMBA under the supervision of **Mr. Shawkat Kamal**, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, Executive MBA Program.

## CfL Updates

### A picnic: CfL at Sripur targeting teambuilding



BRAC University Centre for Languages arranged a picnic for the faculty members on 25 November, 2011. The venue of the gathering was Abed Centre, a marvellous resort at Sripur under Gazipur District. Most of the faculty members of CfL attended the picnic while some of them accompanied their close ones. **Lady Syeda Sarwat** Abed piloted the team. Participants were involved throughout the whole day taking part in various activities designed for amusement and enjoyed traditional foods along with some traditional cakes. The picnic actually inspired the faculty members with enthusiasm and communal feelings.

### Two fresh batches started at DevPro

From 17 November 2011 two fresh batches for Development Professionals started at DevPro building in Niketan of Gulshan area. This program has been designed to enhance English Language proficiency and understanding of development issues for the BRAC mid level development professionals who will be given postings after the course in different foreign countries to be involved in BRAC activities. These two batches include twenty eight participants of BRAC-Micro credit and BRAC Education Program.

### Roxana Ahmed Chowdhury recited poems at the American Embassy

**Ms. Roxana Ahmed Chowdhury**, Lecturer of BRAC University Centre for Languages (BRACU-CfL) participated in a poetry recitation program organized by American Embassy, Dhaka on 22 November 2011. The U.S Embassy, Dhaka organized the program at the American Center Auditorium where poetry readers and faculty members of different universities also attended the program. **Ms. Chowdhury** recited her self-composed poems- Escape and Bonding.

### BRACU Communication and Language Club organized a workshop

On 17 November 2011 the BRAC University Communication and Language Club (BUCLC) organized a workshop on Presentation Skill Grooming at BRACU. The aim of the workshop was to impart knowledge and skills on formal presentation including tips from experts encouraging high performance within competitive circumstances. The guest speaker, **Anahita Ahmed**, Lecturer, BRAC Business School, started with an ice-breaking session. Henceforth the speaker talked of the different norms of presentation while the workshop ended with a question answer session. **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Ms. Liza Reshmin**- a Senior Lecturer of CfL

and acting Advisor of BUCLC were present in the workshop. The organizers deemed the session quite successful from the responses it brought from the participants. However, it is worth mentioning- the BUCLC is envisioned to develop the communication and language skill of the students of BRAC University and accordingly, the workshop is one of their regular activities.

### Chinese and Korean Language teachers joined CfL

Two teachers for Chinese and Korean languages have joined at CfL. **Ms. Zhu Lili**, a certified Lecturer for Chinese Language will work as a volunteer to teach basic Chinese language and culture during her stay at BRAC University. In addition, **Jo Minjeong**, a certified teacher who pursued Korean Language education as a foreign Language will teach Korean language and culture being at BRAC University.

## Counseling Updates

### Workshop on self confidence



*"It ain't what they call you; it's what you answer to."* On 30th November 2011, Wednesday, the Counseling Unit arranged a workshop entitled 'Self Confidence'. This workshop was prepared on the base of the students need. Self-confidence is an attitude which allows individuals to have positive yet

realistic views of themselves and their situations. This attitude help people to trust their own abilities, have a general sense of control in their lives, and believe that, within reason, they will be able to do what they wish, plan, and expect. Having self-confidence does not mean that individuals will be able to do everything. Self-confident people have expectations that are realistic. Even when some of their expectations are not met, they continue to be positive and to accept themselves.

People who are not self-confident depend excessively on the approval of others in order to feel good about themselves. They tend to avoid taking risks because they fear failure. They generally do not expect to be successful. They often put themselves down and tend to discount or ignore compliments paid to them. By contrast, self-confident people are willing to risk the disapproval of others because they generally trust their own abilities. They tend to accept themselves; they don't feel they have to conform in order to be accepted.

Lack of Self-confidence is very commonly we found in our students. For that reason the target participants of the workshop were the students. The key facilitator of this workshop was **Farida Akhtar**, the consultant of Counseling Unit. We designed this workshop with many activities such as: brain storming, relating different songs with self confidence, self confidence stories and shared cases related to this topic. Main presentation helped them to learn few tips about how to increase self confidence. At the end, a mini 'relaxation' was done with a positive statement. Finally, all the participants were given an evaluation sheet to fill up where they wrote their impression over the workshop and proposed topics for future seminars or

workshops.

## CSO Updates

### Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP), Fall 2011



Classes for Professional Skills Development Program (**PSDP**) have begun. Three sections have been opened for **PSDP**, Fall 2011. A total number of 130 registered students are attending this Program. Professional Skills Development Program (**PSDP**) focuses on topics such as business etiquettes, essential telephone skills, CV/resume writing, career planning and

interviewing skills.

This is an in-depth, practical program designed to help students to build up their self-confidence, self-esteem and professionalism. The program is also expected to make students aware about the need for developing communication skills and provide students an opportunity to refine their image and appearances. During the entire duration of this program students are put through presentations on various topics and reenactment of certain situations to build their confidence and conquer stage fright.

**Mrs. Ferdousi Begum**, Head of Retail Banking Unit, Trust Bank Limited; **Md. Sharif Bin Mohiuddin**, Executive - HR, Augere Wireless Broadband Bangladesh Limited, and **Mr. Mehraj Hamid**, Associate Director, HR, BRAC, are the resource personnel for the three sections.

### Informational seminar on higher education in Canada

BRAC University Career Services Office (CSO) and Canadian University Application Centre (CUAC) jointly organized informational seminar on higher education in Canada on November 21st, 2011 at BRAC Business School Conference room, BRAC



University. **Mr. Dani Zaretsky** (Chief Ideas officer -CUAC) opened the session and discussed all that has to be done by a student in order to secure an admission in Canadian the Universities. **Mr. Dani** also shared his experience on working here at BRAC University.

In 1997 a liaison office of the University of Windsor was opened inside BRAC. Soon after, the office grew, and eventually was situated inside BRAC University, and today it is located in the Hosna Centre in the middle of one of Dhaka's most important neighborhoods for embassies, universities and schools. Today, (CUAC) brings eight universities and their programs to Bangladeshi students - making it easy for them to get information, access applications to Canada's world-class public institutions of higher learning.

Topics discussed in the seminar were, How to choose the right University and also to look for the right course / subject for Bachelors / Masters / Phd Degrees, Academic / Career Counseling, Application Processing, Tuition Fee Structure, Scholarship, etc. Students from BBS department participated in the seminar and benefited themselves.

At the end of the seminar **Mr. Dani Zaretsky** took part in a Q&A session with the students and the faculty members from BBS and other departments.

### **Internship Registration-Spring 2012**

The chief mission of the Career Services Office (CSO), BRAC University is to prepare students for the job market in Bangladesh and abroad. Internship, which is a supervised attachment with an organization for twelve weeks, provides the opportunity to gain real-world experience that complements what students are learning in the classroom and prepares students for the job market. Internship Registration for the semester Spring, 2012 has started from November 17, 2011. Seventy-three undergraduates from the BRAC Business School, four from the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, nine from the Department of English and Humanities and three post graduates from BRAC Business School have registered for the semester Spring 2012 to date. These students will start their internship from January, 2012 and will work in positions related to their major area of study and their chosen career fields.

### **ENH Updates**

#### **November 2011 New Faculty Joins ENH:**

**Mahreen Murad** joined ENH in November 2011. She has completed her M.A. in Gender Studies from School of Oriental African Studies, University of London, UK. Her dissertation was titled "Education Gender Biased? A Case Study of High Schools in Bangladesh." She has also completed the Cambridge Certificate of English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA) as well.

#### **Guest Lecture Series at ENH:**

Film maker **Kalid Sheikh** was invited to present lectures on Samuel Beckett as a part of ENH lecture series in November. His first lecture titled "A Close Reading and Comparative Analysis of Beckett's short story The End Game" took place on 15th

November 2011. His second lecture titled "Reading Joyce through Beckett: the Preoccupation with the Subject" was held on 23rd November 2011. **Khalid Sheikh** A Part of the Audience

### **ENH Faculty leaves for higher studies:**

**Asifa Sultana**, Lecturer of ENH has left on a scholarship for a three year PhD program at the Department of Communication Disorders of the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. She is going to explore the pattern of language use among the Bangla-speaking children with Specific Language Impairment (SLI).

### **Launching of the second issue of Resonance:**

Resonance the online creative writing journal of BRAC University launched its 2nd issue on 27th November 2011. **Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam**, a noteworthy writer in English as well as Bengali fiction was present as the chief guest on the occasion and he read out two of his short stories. **Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury**, the advisor of the journal welcomed the audience and said that this issue of the journal revolves around the theme of Celebration. She also mentioned the "Story Web" feature that this issue introduces. This feature will enable writers to produce a literary fiction in a collaborative way. Some of the students whose writings have been published in this issue recited their works for the audience. **Professor Firdous Azim**, Chairperson of Dept. of ENH, **Professor Golam Samdani Fakir**, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and **Ishfaq Ilahi Chowdhury**, the Registrar of BRAC University were present among others in the audience. The magazine can be visited at <http://www.bracu.ac.bd/journal/resonance/>

### **ESS Updates**

The Dept of Economics and Social Sciences of BRAC University sent six participants to the Annual Independent Economic Assembly, AiEA 2011, hosted by the Independent Economic Society of Independent University Bangladesh on November 24, 2011. The assembly was divided into two segments - the first being interactive economics-related sessions, the second being a talk on the role of banks in Bangladesh.

During all interactive sessions, students were split into teams of three, resulting in two teams from BRAC University, and eight teams in total. First they had a game of barter, where students were given a fictitious basket of goods, and sought to achieve a target basket of goods within thirty minutes.

Then in a quiz competition the students were quizzed their knowledge in elementary micro- and macroeconomics. One team from BRAC University became the first runner up of the competition, with the other team performing remarkably well. After lunch, each team was given the same imaginary news report from a 2023 Bangladeshi newspaper, highlighting key macroeconomic problems of the economy. **Shehzad Arifeen** from BRAC University bagged the prize of the Best Speaker at the event.

The event concluded with a one-and-a-half hour long speech by the chairman of Agrani Bank Ltd on the role of banks in the development of Bangladesh, that was

humorous, erudite and yet candid. He discussed some very practical limitations of Bangladeshi banks, and what should be done to correct it.

### Faculty joined in conference

The Department of Sociology at the University of Oxford organized a conference in collaboration with the Oxford Poverty and Development Initiative Centre from 25-26 November 2011. This conference explored social, political, economic and cultural transformations in South Asia through a wide range of analytical perspectives.

**Shahidur Rahman**, assistance professor in ESS department of BRACU attended the conference and presented a research paper on South Asian Diaspora and changing pattern of international migration in Bangladesh.

The Department of Sociology and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford organized an International Conference on "South Asia in Transition" from 25-26 November 2011. **Seuty Sabur**, assistance professor in ESS department of BRACU attended the conference and presented a paper titled "Tying Knots and Transcending Boundaries: Bangladeshi 'Middle Class', Transmigrant Networks and Mobility"

### IGS Updates

#### State of Cities (SOC)

On November 30 , 2011 the SOC team had a workshop with Bath University **Professors Geof Wood, Joe Devine** and **Ipschita Basu** regarding their progress and problems and visited **Dr Nurul Amin**, Dean of the School of Environmental Science at North South University, to seek advice on issues related to waste management in Dhaka.

#### Conference on 40 Years of Bangladesh



The Institute of Governance Studies organized an International Conference on 40 Years of Bangladesh: Retrospect and Future Prospects from 26-28 November 2011. The launching ceremony of the conference took place at BRAC Centre Inn while the rest at BRAC BCDM, Savar, Khagan. The chief guest at the launching ceremony was Justice **Habibur Rahman** and special guest was **Dr. Gowher Rizvi**. The purpose of the conference was to highlight the Governance of Bangladesh in these 40 years;



the failures and the future prospects that lie ahead and proposing better and effective ways of governance. Significant International scholars like **Geof Wood, Joe Devine, Theodore Thomas, Donald Curtis, Harry Wallace Blair, Jalal Alamgir, Akhlaque Haque** and many others have participated in this conference and made their presentations.

### **IGS brainstorming session for strategy**

On November 29 IGS organized a half day brainstorming session to evaluate the activities of 2011 and review and update the strategies of (2012-15). All IGS employees participated in this. **Andrew Jenkins, Donor Liaison** Officer of BRAC moderated the first part of the session. Divisional as well as overall IGS strategy was discussed in this session.

### **Meeting with BPATC & ACAD**

**Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director-In-Charge at IGS has attended Senior Staff Course for joint secretaries at BPATC and ACAD on November 2011.

### **Nuffic and MDF visit**

A three member team of Netherlands (Dutch Delegation Des) in partnership with IGS and Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center has initiated a 4-year project named 'Capacity Building for Promoting Governance'. The project has been undertaken under the Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education (NICHE)/NAFFIC. Netherlands based MDF Training and Consultancy B.V (MDF), the Center for International Cooperation, of the VU University Amsterdam and the Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam are part of this collaborative intervention. The project aims at building capacity at IGS and BPATC to transform the public sector in Bangladesh to be responsive to the needs of its citizen through competent curriculum designing, training, learning and developing effective sustainable strategy. The team had a meeting with the concerned IGS team and created a logical framework of the project.

### **New staff at IGS**

IGS has a new visiting research Fellow **M. Shahidul Islam** who would be coordinating the research activities and assist with publications of SOC and SOG. IGS also has **Farhana Razzaque**, Research Associate, **Sultan Mohammed Zakaria**, Research Assistant and **Nazmul Arifeen**, Research Assistant as new addition to its team.

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

JATRI organized CTFK (Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids) program on November 2011. The program was attended by **Ruhul Amin Rushd** of Banglavisision,



**Mohammad Nadim** from the Daily Ittefaq, **Rita Nahar** from Boishakhi TV and many other media personnel. In the program the affects of tobacco intake and causes and prevention were discussed.

### **The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA)**

#### ***Workshop on "Social Accountability Stock-Taking in Bangladesh"***



The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asia Region organized a Round-table on "Social Accountability Stock-Taking in Bangladesh" on November 15, 2011 at BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. The aim of the workshop was to build an information or evidence base for the present and emerging

accountability practice - especially in the context of Bangladesh, and subsequently rest of South Asia. It was attended by representatives from a number of civil society organizations, viz. the Hunger Project-Bangladesh, Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC), D-Net, PRIP Trust, Article 19, Bangladesh, Manusher Jonno Foundation, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Bangladesh, Nagorik Uddog/ AIB and many others.

#### ***HLP: Appreciative Inquiry Network Workshop***

The COO of ANSA-SAR & Global attended the first Horizontal Learning Program (HLP): Appreciative Inquiry Network Workshop from November 21 to November 22, 2011 at Elega, Tangail. The objectives of the workshop was to share the existing good practices, plan exposure visits for learning from peers, identify opportunities for collective engagement at the Bangladesh Urban Forum and identify next steps for scaling-up, deepening and sustaining this initiative. Representatives from Pourashavas, Local Government Division (LGD) and partner agencies were present in the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by the Ministry of Local Government with support from WSP, UPPR (UNDP, DFID), UGIIP (ADB, KFW, GIZ) and JICA.

#### ***2011 Asia Regional Peer Learning and Knowledge Sharing Workshop***

**Mr. Naimur Rahman**, Chief Operating Officer of ANSA-SAR and GPF participated in a workshop on "Engaging Citizens against Corruption in Asia: Approaches, Results and Lessons" from November 29 to December 2, 2011 at Jaipur, India. The event was sponsored by Partnership for Transparency fund (PTF) in collaboration with its partners in India - the Public Affairs Center, CUTS and Transparency International India. The three-day workshop brought together Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

from 8 countries in Asia and anti-corruption experts from all over the world. The workshop mainly featured results from over 30 case studies and four country programs. The participants had the opportunities for peer-to-peer and peer-to-expert discussions on a variety of demand for good governance related topics, including funding strategies, sharing of best practice, innovative forms of engaging media and new technologies for anti-corruption programs.

## MNS Updates

### Participation in Astronomy Olympiad Exposure Camp

**Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed** of the MNS Department participated in the Astronomy Olympiad Exposure Camp at HBCSE (TIFR), Mumbai, India from 14 to 17 November 2011. The primary objective of this camp is to spread awareness about the Olympiad activity and in particular Astronomy Olympiad activity which is already operational in the country. The camp also aimed at productive interaction of the teacher community with Olympiad activity at its focus. The camp consisted of various exposure sessions on theory, data analysis problem as well as night sky observation sessions. The topics of the camp included celestial mechanics, observational astronomy, positional astronomy and observable properties of stars. On the way back he has visited Santiniketan with an explicit exposure to Rabindra Bhaban and Biswa Bharati Biswabidyalaya.

### MS Thesis Presentation

MS thesis viva of three students, **Ms. Fajlima Parveen**, **Mr. Amitav Das** and **Mr. Samsad Razzaque** was held on November 30, 2011. All three students worked in various fields of Plant Biotechnology. Work of **Ms. Fajlima Parveen** aimed to develop a tissue culture regeneration protocol for abiotic stress tolerant indigenous potato varieties. Her research entitled "In vitro regeneration of three local potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) varieties of Bangladesh". This research was carried out under joint supervision of **Dr. Mahmuda Khatun**, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) and **Dr. Aparna Islam**, BRACU. **Mr. Das** worked in "Establishment of in vitro regeneration in locally grown tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Miller) varieties". Aim of this work was to develop tissue culture protocol for farmer popular tomato varieties. Under BAS-USDA-PALS endowment fund project, **Mr. Razzaque** isolated and cloned an antipotor gene into *Agrobacterium* sp. transformation vector. His work entitled "Isolation and cloning of salt tolerant genes from rice and *Arabidopsis*". Both **Mr. Das** and **Mr. Razzaque** did their research under joint supervision of **Professor Zeba Islam Seraj**, Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and **Dr. Aparna Islam**, BRACU. The Thesis evaluation exam was chaired by **Professor AA Ziauddin Ahmad**. **Dr. Mahboob hossain**, **Dr. Aparna Islam** and **Ms. Jebunnessa Chowdhury** were among the other members of the examination. **Professor Zeba I. Seraj** was present during viva as external examiner.

## Pharmacy Updates

### Professor Ashik Mosaddik wins TWAS Young Scientist Award, 2011



**Professor Ashik Mosaddik**, Chairperson, Pharmacy Department wins the prestigious Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (**TWAS**) award for the Young Scientists 2011. Under an agreement between the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (**TWAS**), on **TWAS** Prize for Young Scientist Scheme, the Academy nominates every year a number of young scientists (below 40 years) from Bangladesh based on their outstanding and academic research achievements. **TWAS** has similar agreements with thirty five other countries. **Professor Mosaddik** is one of the four recipients of this award this year from Bangladesh.

**Dr. Mosaddik** completed his Ph.D from Southern Cross University, Australia and postdoc from Jeju National University, South Korea. **Professor Mosaddik** already published more than 75 scientific papers in various refereed Journals e. g Journal of food Science, Food Chemistry, Natural Product Research, Phytotherapy Research etc. He also wrote a book chapter on Child obesity published by Elsevier Science. As a Chairperson of Pharmacy Department, **Professor Mosaddik** established research collaboration with Dhaka University and ICDDR.B and he is very interested to extend his research in discovering antioxidant and anti-obesity drug from nature.

### **Ronok Zahan's Paper Published in International Journal**

Two scientific paper entitled '*Hypoglycemic and in vitro antioxidant effect of ethanolic extract of Marsilea quadrifolia plant*' and '*Antioxidant and antitumour activity of chloroform extract of Alangium salvifolium flowers*' has been published in Pharmacognosy Magazine and Phytopharmacology Journal respectively, by **Ronok Zahan** as first author, Lecturer, Department of Pharmacy in November 2011.

### **Ronok Zahan and Shahana Sharmin receives grant from Honorable Prime Minister**

**Ronok Zahan** and **Shahana Sharmin**, Lecturers of Department of Pharmacy receive grants from Honorable **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** on 23 November, 2011 at '*The Fellowship Giving Ceremony*' that took place at Osmani Memorial Hall, Dhaka for their research projects on "*Anticancer drug*" and "*Evaluation of the quality of some frequently prescribed drugs (oral liquid dosage forms) for children*" respectively.

## **RS Updates**

### **Five Decades of Development**

On 14 November, 2011 a lecture was delivered by **Professor Syed M Hashemi** (Director of BRAC Development Institute and Acting Chairperson of ESS department, BRAC University), on the development of Bangladesh since independence at Markuli Hall, Savar as a part of the extended learning activity of Bangladesh Studies course. The purpose of this session was to expose students to the achievements that Bangladesh has had since it started its journey as an independent nation. The focus was mainly on Millennium Development Goals (MDG'S) & PRSP.

## Meet the Employers



The Meet the Employer session for the Savar Residential Campus for this semester was organized on 19 November 2011. The dynamic corporate personalities present at the session were

**Tamzid Bin Ahmed**, Sr. Executive Marketing & brand development, ICE Media; **Syed Akhlakuzzaman**, Sr. HR relationship Manager, Brac Bank; Dr. Md. Shahnawaz, head of HSSE & BA; **Tabien Kamal**, head of recruitment and selection, Grameen Phone; **Ashis Kumar Roy**, Manager staffing and talent management, Novartis; and **Umme Salma Mousumi**, Specialist, Centre of Excellence, Grameen Phone. The whole session, hosted by **Mr. Rehan Ahmed**, focused on making students aware and updated of the necessary preparation they ought to obtain for employment once they have graduated.

## SPH Updates

**Dr. Jaime Sepulveda**, CEO of the University of California San Francisco Global Health program visited the School in November 2011. Dr Sepulveda met with MPH students over lunch to discuss priorities for training in public health for the 21st century. He subsequently visited the Korail slum with two MPH students to visit their field research sites.

## FACULTY NEWS

**Dr Timothy Evans**, Dean, attended the 9th Annual Global Health Symposium on "Global Health & Global Health Ethics" organized by Global Health Division, Dalla Lana School of Public Health in collaboration with the University of Toronto, Joint Centre for Bioethics held on November 1, 2011 in Toronto. Dr Evans gave a speech on "Tribute to John Evans" under the panel of "Shaping the Future".

**Dr Timothy Evans**, Dean, attended the Advisory Board meeting of the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) in Ottawa on November 2, 2011.

**Dr Timothy Evans**, Dean, attended the 6th Asia Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resources for Health (AAAHH) annual conference held from November 8-11, 2011 in Cebu, Philippines. He chaired two plenary sessions: "Managing HRH education to support Universal Health Coverage" and "HRH education in the 21st Century" on November 10, 2011. He also coordinated the five country study group for the study on HRH education situational analysis.

**Dr Timothy Evans**, Dean, moderated the dinner discussion on November 15, 2011 in honour of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the Every Women Every Child Initiative with representatives of the private sector from Bangladesh that included guests such as Sir Fazzle Abed and the Minister of Finance of the Government of Bangladesh.

**Dr Timothy Evans**, Dean, attended a Board meeting dinner of the Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) on November 16, 2011.

**Ms Ismat Bhuiya**, Senior Project Director and Team Leader of The Global Fund Project, attended the 'Meeting of Regional Programme Managers on Scaling-up of Adolescent Health Programme' organized by World Health Organization and UNFPA held on held on October 11-14, 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand. **Ms Bhuiya** contributed in the meeting as an expert on Adolescent Health and drafted the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting along with experts from other countries.

**Ms Ismat Bhuiya**, Senior Project Director and and Team Leader of The Global Fund Project, attended the '2011 International Conference on Family Planning: Research and Best Practices' held from November 29 to December 2, 2011 in Dakar, Senegal organized by the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Government of Senegal's Ministry of Health and Prevention. She presented a paper on 'Factors associated with early childbearing in Bangladesh' in a panel on "Postponing the First Pregnancy in Early Marrying Settings."

**Mr Md Nuruzzaman**, Research Associate, attended the 6th Asia Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resources for Health (AAAH) annual conference held from November 8-11, 2011 in Cebu, Philippines. He shared the findings of the pre-tested tools of the study "HRH Education Situational Analysis: Bangladesh" as a part of the five country network for HRH education for a new century.

### **TLC Updates: November 2011**



TLC has organized a half day workshop on Performance Analysis for the Department Coordination Officers (DCO) of BRACU on Tuesday, November 15th 2011 at UB#0503. A total of 17 DCOs were present in the workshop. The agenda of the workshop was to re-examine the given responsibilities to BRACU DCOs and identify the problems & their associated causes in carrying out the responsibilities. Then discussions on highlighting the ways and means of solving those problems were

carried out. Based on 12 Terms of References (ToR) for BRACU DCOs, a group exercise on Task Analysis was completed where the participants were divided into 4 groups and discussed on what are the problems and their associated causes that they are facing in their working areas. Each of the groups presented their discussion and most important 12 issues of concern were listed down. Finally few suggestions came from the participants' side including organizing frequent workshops on professional development, English language skills and on work motivation and concerning for a clear career path for the BRACU DCOs. **Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Professor Fuad H. Mallick, Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Ms. Rosy Sharif, Ms. Ismat Sheeren and Ms. Samina Anzum Chowdhury** were in the facilitation team.

## Student Affairs Updates

### BUCC Organized Intra-University Gaming Contest



The month of November for BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) started with the exciting Intra University Gaming Contest- Fall 2011, on the 19th. Four popular games named Fifa 2011,

NFS Most Wanted, Medal of Honor Allied Assault (MOHAA) and Defense of the Ancients (DotA) were offered in the gaming contest. A total of eighty eight persons registered and fought, the award being 16GB and 4GB pen drives for solo and team games respectively. The daylong event took place in the computer labs on the 11th floor of the university building. Contestants started coming early in the morning, waited eagerly and patiently for the competition to begin. Starting at 10:30am, the event continued till 8:30pm resulting in over 10 hours of anxious competitions.

**Saikat Lawrence Rozario** (10101017) and **Md. Rezwanul Haque** (09201016) earned the titles in Fifa 2011 and NFS Most Wanted. Team games were far more competitive than the solos. Groups led by **Ashfaque Ali** and **Imran Ahmed** turned out champions in the team games MOHAA and DotA correspondingly. Executive members of BUCC passed a busy day setting up match fixtures. Refreshments were provided to everyone. Some faculty members were present throughout the day to assist the BUCC members. Further details are available at GoogleSite and FB. Following faculty members of SECS were present during the award ceremony: Md Shamsul Kaonain and Abu **Mohammad Hammad Ali**.

### BUCC Members Participate in ACM ICPC 2011 Dhaka Site

On the very same day another part of BUCC went to join the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) held at North South University (NSU). Four teams from BRAC University consisting of three members each competed with almost 200 other teams who came from all over Asia Pacific region and of course from numerous universities of Bangladesh. All of the students who participated in ICPC from BRAC University were students of the Department of Computer Science &

Engineering. **Abu Mohammad Hammad Ali** and **M. Abdur Rahman Adnan** were present as team coaches, supporting the teams throughout. Five hours were allocated to solve 10 problems. Each team of BRAC University solved two problems. Four among twelve contestants were executive members of BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC). Event details are available at [here](#). Prize Giving Ceremony of BUCC Intra-University Gaming Contest Prizes were distributed to the winners and runners up of Intra University Gaming Contest- Fall 2011 on November 23rd. The event started at 5:30pm and continued till 6:30pm. Following faculty members of SECS were present during the award ceremony: **Md Shamsul Kaonain, Dr Mohammed Belal Hossain Bhuian, Amina Hasan Abedin, Supriyo Shafkat Ahmed, Sanjida Hossain Sabah, and Aldrin Nippon Boby.**

### **BUCC Organizes MSDNAA Installation fiesta**

Microsoft Student Partners (MSPs) are students chosen by Microsoft to lead the technology discussion on their respective campuses. MSPs of BRAC University arranged a week long



Software Installation Festival from 20th to 24th of November, for the BRAC University students, in collaboration with Microsoft Bangladesh. In this festival, MSDNAA (Microsoft Developer Network Academic Alliance) accounts were provided to the students, through which they will be able to get original Microsoft software for free. A booth was opened for signing up at the UB ground floor lift lobby with relevant banners and festoons. MSP's and other BUCC members were present during the entire week from 10am to 5pm, assisting faculty members and students both from undergraduate and postgraduate programs informing and assisting them with the registration and the installation process. During registration students maintained queues and submitted their personal details alongside an active and valid Windows Live ID. MSPs were always there to check the students' ID for verification process. Faculty members and the staffs were also welcomed and got registered during the weeklong fiesta. The entire fiesta took place in collaboration with the BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC). Credit also goes to all the MSPs of BRAC University who really worked hard and offered their best possible support for the participants. We are grateful to the students who made the event successful by attending. Further details are available at [FB](#).

### ***BIZ BEE Updates***

#### **Being in the shoes of a farmer: Experience of a lifetime**

Experiences matter a lot in life, no matter how minute or massive they are. Being able to comprehend the reality from an experience is the most important thing. Unlike their parents, the present generation of youth is less experienced and unaware of the village life and more importantly, on the hardship of the farmers. To give them a clear view, **Shykh Siraj**, the man who revolutionized the agricultural sector of Bangladesh recently organized a competition named '*FIREY CHOL MATIR TAAAN E*' where a total of four students from BRAC University and North South



University were finalized. They participated in crop cultivation and lived the life of farmers for a couple of days in a village of Manikganj.

To share their rare experiences; **Cathy Bipasha Sarkar** and **Saklain Reza Karim** of BRAC University alongside **Mr. Shykh Siraj** attended the 'Experience sharing'; ending ceremony of '*FIREY CHOL MATIR TAAN E*' in the BRAC University premises on 20th November, 2011.

The event started at 11.15 am and Mr. Shykh Siraj briefly stated the whole journey of Cathy and Saklain towards their understanding of the hardship of farmers. He showed a video clip which showed the whole picture of the hard work they had been through.

**Mr. Aditya Shaheen**, the secretary of **Mr. Shykh Siraj** then invited **Saklain** and **Cathy** to the stage to handover their recently prepared reports on their experience to **Mr. Siraj. Saklain**, in sharing his experience said, "Until I had gone to work as a farmer, I didn't realize that even at present, farmers are traded in the market to work in lands". Cathy mentioned about how early they had to wake up to go to work, how they had to manage their wounds without any antiseptics and many more. Problems regarding health and hygiene, sanitation, low wage, antiquated agricultural equipment, inappropriate bazar system, price hike reducing farmer's ability to afford enough food etc. were also addressed. Cathy in particular stressed the fact that branding of some agricultural crops should be done so that they become renowned which will encourage more investment, resulting in a boom in the agricultural sector. Both of them urged for the government's assistance in ensuring proper education, medical facilities, providing proper amount of seeds, fertilizers and advanced agricultural equipment to the farmers. Emphasis was given on forming 'Krishi Shomobai Shomiti' to resolve all the ongoing problems of the farmers and turning the farming community into a strong unit.

Then came the question-answer session where the audience raised questions regarding the future plan for the development or involvement in agriculture. **Shykh Siraj**, agreeing with them suggested the branding of crops to add value to them and increase importance. He also agreed to provide full assistance to the initiative BIZ BEE is planning to take in the next year; which will be an Inter University Agro-business plan completion.

To contribute to the agriculture sector, a newly made rice cutter named 'Shoulder rice cutter' was introduced by Saklain and two other EEE students (who helped in its innovation) that will make cutting and collecting easy. This machine will be put into test and later on, necessary amendments will be made. This may well be a revolutionary attempt in the course of farming; making it easier and fast for the farmers in the long run.

The experience that Cathy and Saklain have gathered bears tremendous importance. It should remain in our minds as a message so that someday even we can contribute to the lives of the poor farmers; contribute to the agriculture of Bangladesh and bring the golden days back.

### **Tour to Milk Vita Factory**

Like any other semester, also in this semester BIZ BEE has organized a short tour

on 25th November, 2011. The destination was Milk Vita factory, Baghabari, Shirajgonj. The tour started at 7.55 am although it was supposed to start at 7.30 am. The journey was full of excitement. At 9.00 am breakfast was served. After 5 hours of journey the bus reached at "Rabindranath Kachari Bari", Baghabari, Shirajgonj. Lunch was provided there at the auditorium at 2.15 pm right after the Jumma prayer. After having a unique experience, at 2.35 pm the bus finally started factory visit and reached there at 3.15 pm. The GM of the factory facilitated the rules and regulations. At first we visited the "Butter Production Unit". The smell was very horrible, but the process was amazing. Through 'butter churn' (butter processing machine) butter is being processed and there is a separate "Butter Packaging Unit" where huge butter cubes are cut into small pieces and then packed. Then we approached for the "Powder Milk Production Unit" where powder milk is being produced and packed. Some of us got the chance to taste the powder milk. The factory pays 57 taka tax for each kg of production. They collect the milk only from their own union and they supply 5-6 crores powder milk only from Baghabari unit of three processing plants. There are 8 to 9 chilling plants where milk is collected from the union, then chilled and sent for processing. The "UST" and "Condense Milk Unit" was temporarily closed so we could not visit over there. At the end of the visit, we entered the "Cattle Development Section" where in total there are 13 oxen. 12 of them were from Australian and the other one was a country ox. On the other hand, they afford school facilities for the employees children. Finally, the factory visit came to an end at 3.40 pm

### **Macroeconomics Seminar**

In order to have an open discussion regarding the current situation of Macro Economy in Bangladesh; BRAC University Business Club (BIZZ BEE) organized a special seminar, titled as "Stress in the Macro Economy. How to clean up", the key note speakers of the seminar was, **Dr. AB Mirza Md Azizul Islam**, former Advisor of Caretaker Government of Bangladesh & Professor of BRAC Business School, Dr. Shamsul Alam, General Economic Division Bangladesh Planning Commission and **Professor Mamun Rashid**, Director of BRAC Business School. **Dr. AB Mirza Md. Azizul Islam** mainly emphasize on 4 problems of Macro- Economy. Those are- Inflation, Exchange rate, Stock market crash and high mismanagement, rising invest rate. **Dr. Shamsul Alam**, now ever expressed an optimistic view and request everyone to be patient as Bangladesh recovers from its current state. As for **Dr. Akbar Ali Khan**, on the other hand stated current national budget as a non-transparent and unrealistic one, he raised question on the willingness and vision of the Govt. and showed the urgency of having Economic Leadership from Govt. He also discuss over interest rate, foreign reserve, inflation rate and so on.

### **ANNUAL DRAMA 2011**

BRAC University, one of the most reputed universities of Bangladesh, celebrated their 3rd "Annual Drama" in the 5th of December 2011. This prestigious event took place in Chayyanot and was organized by BRAC University Drama and Theater Forum after months of preparation, rehearsals and a lot of hard work. The drama which was staged, is entitled "Bhoy" and is written by one of the students of BRAC University Drama and Theater Forum, Shaikhe Atiqur Rahman Topon. Ritu Satter, from Pracchyanat, instructed this drama and was an inspiration for all the performers to give their best throughout. By 5pm on the 5th of December, guests - faculties, officials, staffs and students of BRAC University, students from various

reputed universities, families, alumni etc. - had started to arrive at Chayyanot. After a brief history of BRAC University Drama and Theater Forum and a speech by the Director of Students Affairs BRAC University, Mrs. Zainab F. Ali, who was also the chief guest of "Annual Drama 2011", the program started. The plot of "Bhoy" revolves around the main character - a lonely old man, who is left alone in the country by his children. Mistreated by the society and neglected by his children and neighbors, the old man starts to hallucinate and constantly gets overwhelmed by grief until he rots to death in his own apartment. When his neighbors discover his rotting body after a few days, their fear empowers them to act sensibly. A wonderfully written story and perfectly delivered dialogues by the performers, "Bhoy" manages to grip the audience's attention till the last minute. It has dark humour, brilliant punch lines and a tragic end. The cheers of the audience spoke for itself. The drama was highly appreciated by all the faculties, parents and students. It left the audience spell bounded, because not only was the drama entertaining, the moral of "Bhoy" made everyone take a look at themselves and the kind of society we live in. The joyous event ended with a lot of appreciation from the audience and thus determined the organizers and performers of BRAC University Drama and Theater Forum to make the Annual Drama of next year an even more successful one! Because even after a lot of hard work behind a successful event, the bliss of watching it all happen in the big stage, is immeasurable!

#### **4TH Annual Film Festival**

A number of mega film festivals have been hosted at BRAC University by the BRAC University Film Club or BUFC for short. The 4th Annual Film Festival, a three-day long festival which started on 21st November, 2011 took a more unconventional path in that it focused on movies created in South Asia that have a cultural emphasis. The motto attached to the festival was 'Blood, Sweat and Tears Meet the Silver Screen'. Present at the event were BRAC University's Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Mohammad Golam Samdani Fakir, the Honorable Registrar Mr. Ishfaque Ilahi Chowdhury and the distinguished faculty members. Of course, the students of BRAC University were ever present to discover these rarely screened films.

Films - those wonderful few hours that can capture the journey of a lifetime. This time around, our theme is set around the culture of this part of the world, or more specifically, the nations of South Asia, more commonly known as the SAARC nations. For those who never knew, SAARC stands for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. It includes the 8 member countries Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. Another fun fact for those who do not know- SAARC was conceptualized by Bangladesh and was founded by Ziaur Rahman. This is a region that has been conflicted by more calamities than the greater part of the world. Here are memories of pain, enslavement and tyranny; experiences of instability and destruction; and expectations of occupation and desolation. But there are stories of hope too: a people who freed themselves so that they could speak in their dialect of desire; a nation that paid the price of a crime they didn't commit but still hold their heads up high after 10 years of suffering; and people who will smile at you and offer you food even though they do not know whether they'll be able to have the next meal. This is the region of the world where 'Blood, Sweat and Tears Meet the Silver Screen'.

The south Asian film Fiesta entails a cocktail of films that have themes ranging from the human instinct of survival to the pursuit of happiness. Feel how people felt

during our liberation war; discover what is going on in the mind of a suicidal; realize the challenges people face in a multicultural marriage; and just watch Osama, a girl disguising herself as a boy to support her family in occupied Afghanistan. These, along with many more are what we have in store for you in the few days to come. After the ribbon to the opening ceremony was cut, Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Mohammad Golam Samdani Fakir delivered a speech in which he expressed his gratitude towards BRAC University Film Club's endeavors to bring unique ideas into reality and said that the idea of introducing this generation to the richness in films of this side of the world is indeed something which is critical for our heritage. He cited the fact that very few are aware of the high quality in South Asian films, which has remained overlooked. Next, the Registrar of BRAC University, Mr. Ishfaque Ilahi Chowdhury added a personal touch by recalling days of his youth, when films of Bengali, Indian and English origin were familiar to the Bangladeshi people and this created a competition for the country's film-makers to maintain quality but that had changed for the best part of the past 30 years, although recently, things have taken a turn for the good. The first day saw the screening of the Bangladeshi film 'Joy Jatra'. Next was the Indian film called 'Autograph' revolving around film business. And the day concluded with the Pakistani human drama 'Khuda Kay Liye'. On the second day, people were really excited to keep the festival moving. The previous day saw a great turnout of students who managed to make time to come between classes. The festive mood was hyped for the students awaited to see what the day had in store for them- most of these movies were new to all of us. Day 2 saw us viewing of the Indian movie 'Iti Mrinalini'. Next, came one of the most waited films of the event: the multiple awards winning Afghani film 'Osama' and emotions were flying with 'oohs' and 'aahs' as the students discovered aspects that only a real experience in Afghanistan could provide. The day's last movie was the Bangladeshi film 'Aguner Poroshmoni'.

On Wednesday, the last day of the festival, the festive mood found new heights for two reasons. First, the auditorium had been decorated marvelously especially for the ending ceremony. Secondly, and more excitingly, there were two guests of honor who would be coming to celebrate this event along with the students. Highly recognized actor Riaz and the multi-talented Tariq Anam Khan came in the morning and shared their feelings of this unique event. The two personalities mentioned above have had significant roles to play in the country's development of the medium, of entertainment. The multi-talented Riaz is a popular actor of mainstream films as well as a model, a film producer and television host. It is worth mentioning that Riaz was selected best actor and awarded with the National Film Awards thrice and has a record of having acted in more than 100 Bengali films. On the other hand, Tariq Anam Khan has been very pro-active where acting is concerned. He is renowned for his history with stage drama and active roles in films such as Joy Jatra (which was screened on the 1st day of the festival), Jaago and the British Bangladeshi film collaboration called The Last Thakur in which he plays the lead role of Thakur.

The last movie shown was the Pakistani 'Khamosh pani'. The festival did end a non-stop progression of discovery and awe at the masterpieces that are understated, but this is definitely not the end and future undertakings will only be impressive.

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