



BRAC University Bulletin

2012/july

Architecture Updates

Kick off program of ten - year celebration of Department of Architecture



On 19 July, 2012 Department of Architecture, BRAC University had the kickoff event of its ten- year celebration. A corner of the Gulshan youth club took a very festive look on that day. The touch of green in everyone's dress made the evening green. The program started at 5pm with the "wishing words" on two logo plats. Students from 2002 to 2012 and all faculty were present on that occasion. The theme of the program is "Doshe" means "ten" in other word it is "together". The most attractive part of the event was "be as you like". Eleven cakes were earmarked for all the eleven years of the department. The memory sharing and a documentary film of the department made the event



meaningful. Dance with the theme song and traditional foods were very lively part of the program. Department of architecture is going to arrange Architecture week, design charrette, special Angan lecture, Archkids as a part of the ten-year celebration in the near future.

Ramna Park visit

Students of the course

ARC 412- Landscape Design visited Ramna Park on 8 July, 2012. "To know the tree" is a part of the landscape design learning. Tree researcher and columnist **Mr. Mokaraam Hossen** was present with the students as the guide. Three Faculty members **Rubaiya Sultana, Amer Ibne Sharif** and **Shakil Ahmed Shimul** accompanied the students.

BBS Updates

Seminar on "Financing large projects in Bangladesh" organized by BRACU EMBA FORUM

The BRACU Executive MBA (EMBA) Forum organized their first ever seminar titled "Financing large projects in Bangladesh" on Sunday 29th July, 2012 at 11:00 AM at BRAC University GDLN centre in collaboration with the Economic Reporters Forum (ERF) of Bangladesh. **Dr. Mirza Md Azizul Islam**, Professor, BRAC Business School, BRAC University and former adviser to the interim caretaker Government chaired the session. The keynote paper was presented by **Professor Mamun Rashid**, Director, BRAC Business School.



The panel discussion included **Professor Ainun Nishat**, VC, BRAC University, **Dr. Akbar Ali Khan**, Professor, BRAC Business School along with many other distinguished speakers. The speakers shared their expertise on the different aspects of large projects. Any large project is likely to have construction, financing, river training (if bridges) and resettlement sides to it. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, being an engineer and water specialist focused on river training and resettlement issues. **Dr, Fouzul Kabir Khan**, currently Professor at North South University who was also previously engaged with large power plants and co-author of a book titled "Financing large projects" shared his experiences and views. **Dr. A K Abdul Mubin** shared his experience with Jamuna Bridge. Overall, the program was very informative and shed light on some current issues.

Faculties and students of BRAC University were also present in the event. This event received extensive media coverage and was featured in the news and various newspapers.

Seminar on "Career Prospects in Banking" at BRAC University



BRAC University MBA Forum organized a seminar on "Career Prospects in Banking" at the Auditorium of BRAC University on 14th July, 2012. The opening ceremony was presided over by **Mr. Rezaur Razzak**, Coordinator of MBA Program at BRAC Business School.

In order to have a clearer idea on the career prospects in banking, distinguished Human Resource professionals from different Banks were to this seminar. Among them **Alkona K. Chowdhury** (Sr. Executive Vice President and Head of HR, IFIC Bank Ltd), **Md. Iftekhar Hossain** (Head of HR, Prime Bank Ltd.) **Mujib Siddiqui** (Head of HR, Dhaka Bank Ltd), **Abdullah Harun Imam** (Head of Recruitment, BRAC Bank Ltd) were present on this occasion.

The panelists shared various aspects in the areas of recruitment, development, employee motivation, performance appraisal processes in banking environment and some of the latest developments like green banking, role of technology etc. Moreover, they discussed the qualities and competencies they look into among the applicants while recruiting the best people from the market. The panel discussion was moderated by **Professor Mamun Rashid**, Director at BRAC Business School. A large number of students from MBA, EMBA, BBA and other departments of BRAC University were present in the seminar. The seminar was wrapped up with a lively question and answer session moderated by **Md. Tamzidul Islam**, Lecturer, BRAC Business School. In conclusion, **Professor Mamun Rashid**, Director at BRAC Business School thanked BRACU MBA Forum specially the president, **Rashedul Alam Sarker** for their brilliant efforts and inspired the forum to organize such events in future.

Pepsi Business Case Competition 2012

On 19th July 2012, BRAC University's Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF) held the Grand Finale of Pepsi Business Case Competition 2012, sponsored by Transcom Beverages Ltd. In the Grand Finale, there were seven finalist teams - Kreatives, Torun Dol, Case Crackers, Outliers, Avant Garde, Sapphire,



Falcon. The event was hosted by **Ms. Sohana Wadud**, lecturer, BRAC Business School. And **Mr. Tareq Mahbub**, Assistant Professor, BRAC Business School who gave the welcome speech. **Professor Mamun Rashid**, Director, BRAC Business School also spoke on the event. The participating teams gave a wonderful presentation and it showed their skills and competency. Later, **Mr. Tariqul Haque**, who was the external judge spoke a few words about the event.

Followed by this, the guest of honor, the Executive Director of Transcom Beverages Ltd. **Mr. Khurshid Irfan Chowdhury** gave his speech encouraging students to develop their leadership qualities and the need for practical learning in their business and professional careers.

Later, the winners and the runners up were announced and handed their trophies. The champion of the case competition was Avant Garde, first runner up was Outliers and the second runner up was Sapphire. Followed by that, **Professor Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro - Vice Chancellor of BRAC University gave the thanking note.

"Corporate America-Meet the Leaders"



U.S.A.- perhaps it a dreamland for many of us. We dream not only to study in US Universities, but also to work with USA based companies and living the American dream. But there are lots of students who want to add value to our country while joining in US

based companies in Bangladesh. With this in mind and the aim to get connected with different US based organizations the seminar "Corporate America: Meet the Leaders", was organized by BRAC University Business Club (BIZ BEE) on July 16, 2012 at BRAC University premises.

The purpose of organizing the seminar was to create a platform for the BRACU students to enrich their knowledge regarding US companies and incorporate the philosophy of 'Corporate Figure: BIZ BEE members with distinguished guests. America' in context to Bangladesh. The Key note speaker was **Prof. Mamun Rashid**, Director of BRAC Business School. He shared his experience and knowledge focusing on different USA based organization like Chevron, Ford, Coca Cola, IBM, Apple, P&G, Microsoft, PepsiCo and many more. He emphasized that the main objective of 'Corporate America' lies with 3 P's and those are Profit, People & Planet. Making 'Profit' through continuous experiment, 'People' is the center of development with proper knowledge, skill, abilities and other tactics and lastly 'Planet' to protect the earth for sustainable development. At a time he mentioned that, American enterprise believes in 'Triple Bottom Line' including Economic, Social and Environmental sustainability which helps to manage business for the long run. Besides, it also has a competitive advantage to minimize the cost by improving

environmental performance, he added.

The program was also lighted up with the presence of **Mr. Geoffrey Strong**, President of Chevron. He highlighted the activities of Chevron in Bangladesh and how they are creating a constructive atmosphere for the fresh graduates. **Mr. A. Gafur**, Executive Director of American Chamber of Commerce, gave importance for the participation of the students in the research work more and more to have proper knowledge on a specific issue. Apart from that, **Mr. Gaznabi Chowdhry**, Key Account Manager of Transcom Beverage Ltd also talked about his company's activities; **Ms. Ishrat Jahan**, Education Co-coordinator, Education USA, American Center stressed the importance of having a good education to further the students ambition to become a part of Corporate America. She informed the audience about the advantage of having a US degree in a subject of students choosing and how it could specifically benefit the students who are looking to build a career in US companies. She explained the process of pursuing higher studies in abroad and how the Education USA, American Center is helping the students through student counseling and many of their resources. **Mr. Akku Chowdhury**, Special Guest, Managing Director of Transcom Foods Ltd. shared his opinion mentioning that Bangladeshi students can create strong brands as he himself represents renowned US based franchises i.e. KFC, Pizza Hut. Lastly, the Session Chair was **Mr. Raj Sriram**, Vice Consul of US Embassy Dhaka, who shared his vast experience of operations and the potential opportunity for the Bangladeshi students as the future leaders in US companies. Apart from guests, honorable faculties, BIZ BEE adviser **Mr. G. M. Shafayet Ullah**, Co-adviser **Ms. Asphia Habib**, and **Muntasir Zaman**, President of BIZ BEE; along with other members were present there to ensure the success of the program.

Learning through Business Tour

Are you getting tired with the regular quizzes, assignments and exams? Do you want to take a long fresh breath in an open green place? Want to learn something out of your regular bookish syllabus? Then, why don't you join with us in our short Business tour? Yes, seniors approached us in this way to get involved in the business tour.



Perhaps, it sounds bit unfamiliar with the term "Business Tour". Well, we call it business tour not because we visit just a place; rather we visit a place including a

factory to have some knowledge from practical field. And on July 13, 2012, BRAC University Business Club (BIZBEE) organized a short business tour to National Tea Garden and Chundeecherra Tea Factory in Habiganj, Sylhet. The total participants were 95 students from BIZBEE including our honorable advisers. We started our journey at 8:00 am by bus to rejoice the beauty of natures and surrounding environment. We were charmed by the beauty of different Tea gardens, 'Banglow', small hills, lakes, canals, soothing atmosphere and of course the tea factory in Habiganj. In the factory visit, we came to learn how they collect leaf from the garden, process it in the factory, how they are operating their business and finally how they made it export quality. We realized we would never get to know about these things until we visited the factory. We also enjoyed a cup of tea made by the green leaves right after it processed.

In past semesters, BIZ BEE organized short business tour to different places like Milk Vita factory at Sirajganj, Fu-Wang foods Ltd at Gazipur, Coca-Cola factory at Comilla to enrich our knowledge from different aspects.

However, it was, indeed a great journey to Habiganj National tea Garden. Exciting bus journey, lots of game show, getting to know other mates very well, yummy foods, attachment with 'Green', forgetting day to day busy life for a while, knowing lots of unknown things, seeing the unseen, celebrating togetherness and what not? These were a full package we got from BIZ BEE short business tour to Habiganj, a very rejoicing and cherished one.

BRAC University Marketing Association (BUMA) arranges seminar on Relationship Marketing



BRAC University Marketing Association (BUMA), the newest member in the BRAC University family hosted their first seminar, titled "Practical Marketing Session on Relationship Marketing" on 29th July, 2012. It focused on the Relationship marketing strategies that advocate knowing your customers - who they are and how

they act in different channels at different points in time - and using this knowledge to make marketing, sales or customer support decisions. The session was chaired by **Professor Mamun Rashid**, Director of BRAC Business School and the keynote speakers were **Dr. Tareque Aziz**, visiting faculty - EMBA, BRAC University and **Ms. Rubaba Dowla Matin**, Chief Service Officer of Airtel Bangladesh.

The session started off at sharp 1:00 p.m and first to speak was **Dr. Tareque Aziz** who gave the students a basic idea on what Relationship Marketing is, how it came to be and what its importance was in modern day marketing. He explained Christian Gronroos' model on Relationship Marketing, who is considered to be a legend in this particular field.

After **Dr. Aziz's** informative lecture on the theoretical side of Relationship Marketing the floor was given to the chief speaker **Ms. Rubaba Dowla Matin. Ms. Matin**, probably the first woman who reached the top position in the corporate world of Bangladesh, is famous for the innovative work she did during her tenure in the leading telecom company Grameenphone. **Ms. Matin** told the students about how she used Relationship Marketing in the different situations she faced while doing her job in Grameenphone and Airtel Bangladesh. During her lecture which was really fantastic and entertaining, she let the audience have a peek into what went behind the huge telecoms companies in Bangladesh, how they micro managed their huge customer base of 85 million by using the techniques of relationship marketing. **Mr. Asif Iqbal**, Executive Director Marketing at Meghna Group of Industries, also gave an excellent speech on Relationship Marketing and shared some of his experiences. After the speakers finished their lectures the floor was open to the audience for Question & Answer session. Students asked the speakers different questions and clarified what they learnt from the session.

As BUMA's first event, it went exceptionally well. The auditorium of BRAC University, where the seminar was held, was fully packed with more than hundred enthusiastic students. Such response from the students was truly appreciated by the executive body of BUMA. Finally, it was the hard work and combined effort of all the volunteers who worked day and night, that made the event a huge success.

BUMA began its journey on May 2012, with some enthusiastic students and teachers, whose primary objective was to promote "Marketing", not only as theory but its practical application as well. The association seeks to offer marketing major and other students the opportunity to gain a broader, realistic and more practically oriented exposure to marketing activities. BUMA strives to improve each member's marketability in today's highly competitive job market.

EMBA Residential Program



On the 13th and 14th of July 2012, the EMBA Program organized the summer residential program for the students at BCDM, Savar. The program on 13th started at 10.15 am after refreshment. **Mr. Shawkat Kamal**, Assistant Professor, BRAC University and the EMBA Coordinator, presented a brief

overview of the 2 days program for the students. After that, a session was taken on "BRAC" by **Professor Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. After Jumma prayer and lunch, **Dr. Binayak Sen**, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) shared his insights and ideas about the prospects and challenges of Bangladesh economy. The day long program ended with the session taken by **Mr. Matiul Islam Nowshad**, Chief Human Resources Officer, RobiAxiata Bangladesh Limited; he took a session on "HR

Branding". After dinner, a cultural program was organized by the students. On the next day, **Mr. Arif Shahriar**, Corporate COO and Group Head of HR, Rahimafrooz Bangladesh Ltd, talked about how to manage change in a local corporate. Later the director of BRAC Business School **Professor Mamun Rashid** took an interactive session titled "Corporate America". The overall coordination of the program was done by **Mr. Javed Rasel**, DCO, EMBA.

BDI Updates

Progress of the Social Impact of Microfinance on Gender Norms and Behavior Research

The ongoing research - Social Impact of Microfinance on Gender Norms and Behavior- conducted the data entry of household survey throughout June. The household survey data entry has been completed in the month of July and community characterization indices have been prepared. As an activity of the interim phase, a dissemination seminar on the preliminary data is going to be held at the end of August, 2012. With this in mind, preliminary cross tabulations are being done; institutional analytical report is underway and in depth case studies are being thematically structured and summarized. A draft research brief on "village study" as a research methodology has also been prepared.

BDI co-organizes "Reaching the Poorest Global Meeting 2012"



Over 90 practitioners, donors, researchers, and policy makers gathered in Paris from July 17 to 19, for the "Reaching the Poorest Global Meeting 2012" to share operational know-how and research results on an innovative approach to help households "graduate" out of

extreme poverty. Convened by CGAP, Ford Foundation, MasterCard Foundation, BRAC USA and BRAC Development Institute, this meeting was the fourth global learning event of the CGAP-Ford Foundation Graduation Program. Participants included major donors (AsDB, DFID, IFAD, World Food Programme, and the World Bank), practitioners (including members of the ten CGAP-Ford Foundation Graduation pilots from eight countries), large international NGOs (CARE, Concern, Catholic Relief Services, and Save the Children) and policymakers (from Chile, Haiti, Kenya, and Peru).

The CGAP-Ford Foundation Graduation Program is a global effort to understand how safety nets, livelihoods and microfinance can be sequenced to create pathways for the poorest out of extreme poverty, adapting a methodology developed by BRAC in Bangladesh. BDI along with CGAP serves as the secretariat for the Graduation Program. The two bodies are collaborating with implementing partners to see whether and how the graduation model can work across diverse contexts. Six pilots have been completed in Haiti, Honduras, India, and Pakistan. Four pilots are still

underway in Ethiopia, Ghana, Peru, and Yemen.

The centerpiece of the meeting was the presentation of the research on the impact of the graduation pilots conducted and presented by some of the most prominent development economists in the field including **Esther Duflo** and **Dean Karlan**. The meeting set the stage for the next set of challenges ahead. One priority will be to work on the scalability of the model, including its possible integration with other anti poverty efforts such as government safety nets. Another priority will be to better understand the return on investment of the graduation model, especially in relation to other options seeking to serve the extreme poor.

Master of Development Studies (MDS) students visit BRAC's Social Enterprise at Manikganj

On July 21, 2012, BDI organized a field trip to Ayesha Abed Foundation (AAF), Manikganj for the Master of Development Studies (MDS) students taking the elective course - NGO & Social Entrepreneurship. The students were accompanied by **Alamgir Kabir**, Deputy Academic Coordinator, BDI. During the tour, the students received interactive briefing from the Central Manager as well as the workers of the production center of AAF. The trip has given students the opportunity to observe the work of an organization that aims to provide avenues for



employment and income generation for underprivileged rural women. On the way back, the students visited a BRAC Horticulture nursery and a sanitary napkin manufacturing unit of BRAC. At the manufacturing unit, the students learnt about the cost effective strategies of BRAC to meet its target market.

BIL Updates

EIS Workshop for PACE Trainers

BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) arranged a workshop on the English in Schools (EIS) pages for the English trainers of BRAC PACE (Post-primary basic And Continuing Education) program at Devpro, Niketan on 18 July 2012. PACE trainers usually work with the English teachers of secondary schools in order to improve the quality of English teaching. The workshop familiarized EIS pages to the participants and made them prepare demo lesson plans using the materials of EIS pages so that they can share this learning with the English teachers of secondary schools. The objective behind arranging the workshop was to engage the PACE trainers to introduce the EIS materials for secondary school teachers, so that they can use these materials as the supplement to the textbook.



English in Schools is a project that manages to prepare and publish English language learning materials in the Daily Star for secondary school students of Bangladesh. Robi, one of the leading telecommunication companies, funds the project where BIL previously known as BRACU- CfL develops the materials for the page.

Workshop at BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL)

A workshop was held on 'Aspects of Language Teaching' at BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) of BRAC University on 28th of July. The session was attended by people in the education sector in different capacities, such as NCTB, Teachers' Training colleges, some universities and colleges of Dhaka, and from BRAC. Presentations were made by **Professor D A Quader** on different ways of teaching grammar, and by **Dr. Sayeedur Rahman** teaching speaking in classrooms. Certificates were distributed among participants by **Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed**, the Director of BIL.

Counseling Unit Updates

Workshop on Stress Management at Savar Campus



Stress is the feeling of being under too much mental or emotional pressure. Pressure turns into stress when one feels unable to cope. Now a day's life has become so complicated that people need to know how to manage their stress properly. From this point of view counseling unit of BRACU arranged a workshop on 'Stress Management' for the RS students. The workshop held on 17 July 2012, Tuesday and

focused on different aspect of stress as well as coping mechanism, e.g., meaning of stress, helpful stress, stress-performance connection, stages of stress, personal control, time management, relaxation etc. **Sumaiya Anwar**, **Zinnatul Borak** and **Saleh Siddique** facilitated the workshop. The whole process went through a participatory method. Students shared their present condition, sources and effects of stress and also their existing coping strategy. During the session, students were

provided different handouts including stress check list, stress management tools and tips etc. Campus superintendent and house tutors also attended the workshop. From the evaluation form it was obvious that the participants enjoyed the workshop a lot specially they were excited about measuring their own stress level. However, students claimed for further workshop in future on mental health issues.

Counseling for Medha Bikash Students

Like the previous semester counseling unit visited Medha Bikash group on 17th July 2012. Seven students are participating in the program whom BRAC is sending to India for their under graduation under Rai foundation scholarship. The students received the session on different issues which was conducted by **Anjuman Ara Eva**. The content of the session was how to cope with new environment, food habit, and cultural variety. The discussion could motivate and inspire them to realize the broader picture of what they are up to. It was participatory and encouraging as well. After the class, individual counseling sessions were done with the students needed that.



CSO Updates

Prime Bank ♦ Talent Management Program ♦ Campus Recruitment at BRAC University



Career Services Office (CSO) arranged 'Campus Recruitment' for Prime Bank Limited at BRAC Business School Conference room, on July 19, 2012. **Ms. Asma Banu**, Senior Assistant Director, Career Services Office, opened the session and provided information about the overall

interview process and what employers are looking for. **Shafiqul Islam**, Senior Officer, Human Resource Division, Prime Bank Limited delivered a presentation on the topic.

The program started with an informative and in-depth presentation for the interviewees, giving them a chance to understand the hiring process and how the bank operates. Prime Bank Limited offers real responsibility from day one, which gives fresher the exposure and freedom to determine their career path and make a

significant mark within the organization. The interview for the recruitment was conducted by **Md. Shafiqul Islam**, Senior Officer, Human Resource Division, Prime Bank Limited.

Through the Campus Recruitment Program Prime Bank Limited ensure the people they recruit have the ability to find their niche and excel in a challenging business environment. A good number of students and job-seekers attended the program. Around 40 applicants submitted their Curriculum Vitae and were interviewed for the recruitment.

BRAC University - Meet the Employers'



"Meet the Employers" session for Savar Residential Campus successfully organized by Career Services Office, BRAC University on 28th July, 2012. The event was extremely effective giving BRAC University students a projection of real life working experience and to be informed about desired qualities necessary to build a successful career.

At the beginning of the session **Ms. Asma Banu**, Senior Assistant Director, Career Services Office, BRAC University delivered the welcome speech and opened the session by introducing the guests. Later **Mr. Stawb Peter Halder** (BRACU Alumni), Territory Officer, British American Tobacco, shared his personal experiences from his student life and talked about the importance of maintaining good academic results in order to pursue a dream job in today's world. He also emphasized that students should be focused and proactive on a specific area and be active learner. Afterward, **Mr. Arman Al-Huda**, Manager ♦ HR & Training, Westin Hotel, gave his presentation on the recruitment process and shared helpful tips for job interviews. **Mr. Hrishikesh Baidya**, Deputy General Manager, HRD, BRAC, talked about HR policy that BRAC follows and how it could help the students to get a head start if they want to pursue their career in BRAC. At the end, **Mr. Mohammed Aminul Haque**, Employee Relations Executive, HR & Administration, Banglalink; and **Mr. Nasib Alam**, Key Account Manger Sales, Banglalink spoke about career planning and present job market trends.

During the question/answer session employers addressed the queries of the students, cleared their doubts and helped them in understanding the ground reality in all perspective. Encouraging support from **Mr. Md Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury**, **Kazi Shahnoor Kabir**, Executive Career Services Office and all the staffs of Savar campus helped the event to roll smoothly till the end.

ENH Updates

ENH Seminar series



Dr. Iftekhar Iqbal, Associate Professor of History at Dhaka University delivered a lecture entitled "Eastern Bengal & the Indian Ocean: Maps of Mobility" on 1st July 2012 as a part of the regular ENH Seminar series. He discussed how the Indian Ocean influenced peoples' lives in Eastern Bengal and was a fundamental factor in

determining people's movement in this part of the sub-continent. The seminar was well attended and elicited a lot of questions from the audience.

Certificate Giving Ceremony of Media Workshops



Uche Onyebadi was located at ENH from the 19th of June to 28th of July 2012 to conduct two workshops on Media and Journalism. A Fulbright scholar, **Uche** is an Assistant Professor at the School of Journalism, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, U.S.A. His second workshop titled "News Reporting & Specialised Reporting" ended on 25th July 2012. The workshop was followed by a certificate giving ceremony and iftar for all the participants. **Professor Firdous Azim**, Chairperson of ENH delivered the welcome speech at the ceremony. **Professor Ainun Nishat**, Vice Chancellor of BRACU distributed the certificates among the participants. The event included experience sharing from the facilitator **Uche Onyebadi** and a few participants. The Vice Chancellor also gave his impressions on media and journalism in Bangladesh. It concluded with the vote of thanks from **Mushira Habib**, Lecturer, ENH. **Uche Onyebadi** was given an Uttorio as a token of appreciation and memory from members of the ENH family.

ESS Updates

Conferences Attended by ESS Faculty Members

On July 18th and 19th, **Dr. Wahid Abdallah**, Assistant Professor and **Tanvir Sobhan**, Lecturer of Department of Economics and Social Sciences, attended the first regional matchmaking conference for Urban Services Initiative (USI) at Colombo, Sri Lanka, hosted by The **Abdul Latif Jameel** Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), MIT. The Colombo conference brought together researchers and practitioners active in urban service delivery (particularly water, sanitation, and hygiene) throughout South Asia. The primary goal was to provide medium- to large-scale research funding to conduct rigorous impact evaluations of innovative programs with the potential to improve public service provision and access for the urban poor. These projects will use randomized controlled trial (RCT) methodology to evaluate programs implemented in the field.



On July 15th and 16th **Dr Farzana Munshi**, Associate Professor; **Dr. Wahid Abdallah**, Assistant Professor and **Tanvir Sobhan**, Lecturer of ESS Department participated at The IGC South Asia Growth Conference 2012, Dhaka, Bangladesh. This conference, jointly organized by International Growth Center (IGC) and the Economic Research Group, Dhaka, highlighted the shared challenges to growth and possible policy solutions for countries in the region and encouraged lively debate on issues such as regional integration, trade, land, water and energy.

International Publication by ESS Faculty Member

Dr Farzana Munshi's article "Does Openness Reduce Wage Inequality in Developing Countries? Panel Data Evidence from Bangladesh" has been published in The Singapore Economic Review's Volume No.57, Issue No. 2(2012). The article provides panel data evidence on trade liberalization and wage inequality in Bangladesh. Estimates from a dynamic model suggest that the effect of increased openness to trade is associated with a decrease in wage inequality. The result is in line with the theoretical prediction in that greater openness is expected to reduce wage inequality in developing countries.

IED Updates

Situation Analysis of Adolescent Girls and Boys of Bangladesh

An informal discussion took place at IED, BRACU with the representatives of BRAC Development Institute, Institute of Public Health and Institute of Governance Studies to share the perspectives of the needs assessment study on adolescents.

Through discussion, it has emerged that the situation analysis on the state of adolescents will serve the purpose of a marker from



which the adolescents' demographic and the key issues faced by them can be grasped. Along with this, The Director of IED BRAC U and other educational researchers of the institute attended a discussion session with the Project Manager - ARH of Plan Bangladesh to gain an understanding on the core components, achievements and areas identified for further improvement in order to improve the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents of 21st century. Moreover, the Director, IED, BRAC U and few team members engaged in adolescents' needs assessment study discussed the themes emerged from different consultation sessions held with adolescents with a volunteer from 'Teach for America'. Based on the emerged themes, the discussion particularly focused on the potential pro-adolescent interventions that could be designed to improve the well being of adolescents. So far a total of 9 consultation sessions were held with the adolescents which initially focused on the problems faced by the adolescents and later at the final consultation the discussion focused on the steps needed to address those problems.

Recognising the importance of the emotional wellbeing from the consultations, 4 councilors were recruited by IED-BRACU to provide assistance in research studies and work with adolescents. A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was prepared and shared with the Population Council, outlining the purpose and scope of the work between the Population Council and IED-BRACU. A concept note was prepared on providing a helpline provision to adolescents and developing adolescents. Counselling and research as vocations for adolescents were explored by the concept note.

Training to the teachers

In July 2012, SCOPE (An action research project) organised a training programme for the teachers of Grade VI. The total Grade VI core curriculum has been divided into 3 modules for each subject. This particular training programme was intended to prepare teachers to conduct the module 2 to the students. The training was provided to the teachers in two batches.

Education Watch 2012

All the relevant data and information was being collected from May 15 to July 15, 2012 under the collaborative effort to support CAMPE initiative related to Education

Watch for the study "Skills Development in Bangladesh: Status and Prospects". This was done based on the decision to carry out case studies to deepen the understanding on particular themes. Initially, it was planned that Dhaka Ahasania Mission (DAM) would collect data on street workers and garment workers and IED, BRAC U will collect data from domestic workers, biri (cigarette) workers, ethnic minority, Dolai khal tools and machine workers and weavers.

Short course to the government officials



IED has provided short courses to the Assistant Upazila Education Officers (AUEOs) and Head Teachers (HT) on 'How Head Teachers and AUEOs Can Make Schools Work' and to the Assistant District Primary Education Officer (ADPEOs), instructors of Primary Teachers' Training Institute (PTI) and Upazial Resources Centre (URC) on Pre-primary Education during this month. These are the 10th and 7th batches of training respectively under the Public Private Partnership.

Follow up of the Short Course



A follow up programme of the short courses that have been provided to the AUEOs and HTs has been started. Four schools were visited to see the changes the HTs could bring after receiving the course. The IED team found some significant positive results. Head Teachers and AUEOs (where both got the training) took initiatives to implement the plan that they prepared during the training. Some good outcomes that were found in the follow up are: involvement of the SMC, involvement of the parents, establishing material corner and improvement of the handwriting of the students. The findings of the follow-up were shared with the Team Leaders of IED.

Support to NCTB

According to the National Education Policy 2010, MoPME has initiated Pre-primary classes in all primary schools around the country. In order to support Pre-primary

Curriculum, NCTB has taken responsibility to develop teachers guide and primer. MoPME is also committed to distribute them in all schools by January 2013. To complete the work NCTB and other stakeholders are working as a team to develop the guide and primer, and as such a workshop was held at Savar BCDM from 11-14 July and 27-31 July 2012. The team analysed the Pre-primary curriculum and developed framework of teachers guide through discussions, meetings and workshops. A representative from IED participated at the workshop along with the MoPME, DPE, NCTB, Plan and AKF officials.

Technical support to CAMPE

One IED professional facilitated a training for the managers of different organisations on child development, brain development, behavioural pattern of child, teachers role in class conduction and school readiness during this month. This was a joint initiative of CAMPE with IED where CAMPE organised the training.

Team Members' Participation in 'Social Business Day 2012



Three professionals from IED attended a daylong event- 'Social Business Day 2012, Transforming Societies through Social Business', on 28th June, 2012 at Gonoshastra Kendra from 9.00 am- 6:30 pm. This event was organised by Yunus Centre. Opening remarks was made by Nobel Laureate **Professor Muhammad Yunus**. There was a speech and presentation by astronaut Ron Garan, NASA, USA at the event.

Research Proposal Development by the MEd Third Batch

Students of MEd (third batch, day) have developed their Research Proposals and data collection tools under the guidance of their thesis committee members. All the students presented their Research Proposal before the class and got feedback from the thesis committee members and the audience. Thesis committee members reviewed and approved the Research Proposals. The students are now doing their field work. They are collecting data from their research site by applying their developed tool.

Collaboration with Red River College (RRC), Canada

Science of ECD (SECD), a comprehensive course on Early Childhood Development, has been adapted with the collaboration of IED, BRAC University and Red River College (RRC), Canada during 2010 to 2012. Thereafter an effective discussion took

place at IED BRAC University, aiming to converse on future involvement of RRC and IED for further activities related to Science of ECD. Discussion carried on with the participation of **Dr. Janet Jamieson**, Programme Coordinator RRC, **Ms. Sharon Balasko**, Instructor, RRC, **Ms. Salimah Kassam**, Programme Manager, Aga Khan Foundation, **Kafil Uddin Ahmed**, Programme Team Leader, Aga Khan Foundation, and IED management and professionals from ECD Team. Introducing a short course on SECD, developing a new course on SECD for the MSc. in ECD programme of IED and the pattern of technical support from RRC in this regard have been discussed elaborately.

Paper Presentation at the Head Start's Conference

Two faculties from IED presented papers at the Head Start's 11th Research Conference on "Research on Young Children and Families: Effective Practices in an Age of Diversity and Change" held in Washing D. C., USA.



The paper titled "Cultural Adaptation of Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence-III (WPPSI-III) in Bangladesh" was presented by **Ferdousi Khanom** and another paper titled "Understanding the Required Capacity in ECCD and DRR for Particular Communities in a Disaster Prone District of Bangladesh" was presented by **Syeda Rezwana Akhter**. It was a great experience to be with the renowned researchers from different parts of the world and the IED participants learned from different cultural perspectives at the conference.

IGS Updates

Regular classes held in Masters in Governance and Development Program (MAGD)

The 4th batch MAGD classes restarted from 15 July and running extensively in 2 different modules; 'Learning from People: Methods and Innovations', and 'Lessons in Development'.

Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS): Examinations held and Results Published

The July series examination was held from 16-18 July. Over 30 participants; both from public and private sector participated in this examination. The result of the

examination that was held in May was published on July 31. Almost all the participants passed the examination successfully.

Certificate Awarding Ceremony on "Environmental Management and Governance" Course



The students of the fourth Certificate programme on 'Environmental Management and Governance' were awarded with certificates at the Certificate Awarding Ceremony at BRAC University Premises on 4 July. Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, **Dr. Ainun Nishat** distributed certificates amongst the students. Present in the ceremony were **Professor Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir**, Pro- Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, **Professor ATM Nurul Amin**, North South University, **Professor C. Emdad Haque**, Director of the Natural Resource Institute (NRI), University of Manitoba and **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director, Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University.

5th District Level Strategic Workshops on Third Party Engagement in Public Procurement



The 5th district level strategic workshop on Third Party Engagement in Public Procurement was held on 10 July at the Conference Room of Hotel Aristocrat in Rajshahi. The purpose of the workshop was to collect inputs from respective stakeholders for developing a strategy on engaging third party in public procurement. A set of recommendations on engaging the third party in public procurement was formulated in the workshop.

A total of 37 participants attended the workshop. They were Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mayors of the respective Pourashovas, representatives from local administrations; LGED, WDB, REB, RHD, Union Parishads, media, NGO and other civil society organisations. The workshop was facilitated by **Munir Uddin Shamim**, Senior Programme Manager; **Ekram Hossain**, Senior Project Officer; **Rigan Chakma**, Research Assistant and **Tanzina**

Mizan, Programme Assistant.

Formation of Sub-Committee

A 14-member sub-committee under PPSC project has been formed which will accelerate the development of third party engagement and monitoring strategy. Members of the sub-committee include representatives from Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU), Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), LGED, Roads and Highways Department, Rural Electrification Board (REB), Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), Bangladesh Association of Construction Industries, Bangladesh Association of Software Industries, BRAC, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Transparency International and IGS.

Capacity Building for Promoting Governance

Curriculum Development Workshop on Project Cycle Management

The project "Capacity Building for Promoting Governance" supported by NUFFIC organised a curriculum development workshop on "Project Cycle Management" from 15-19 July which was organised at the International Training Centre (ITC) at the Bangladesh Public Administration Centre (BPATC), Savar, Dhaka.

This training program was designed and conducted by MDF Senior Consultant, **Dr. Martin van Asseldonk**, Senior Trainer and Consultant, **Teun van Dijk** and coordinated by staff members of IGS.

2nd Working Committee Meeting Held

The project 'Capacity Building for Promoting Governance' organised its second working committee meeting on 23 July which was held at BPATC, Savar. The meeting reviewed project implementation status and updated the implementation plan. The meeting was chaired by the Director of BPATC, **Mizanur Rahman**, Senior Consultant, MDF, **Dr. Martin van Asseldonk**, Director of IGS, **Dr. Rizwan Khair** and other working group members from IGS and BPATC.

Second Training of Trainers under the project "Promoting Democratic Institutions and Practices (PRODIP)"



IGS organised the second Training of the Trainers (ToT) on Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy through Able and Active Civil Society under the PRODIP project from 3-4 July. The training was held at

the Conference room at Ascott Hotel, Dhaka. The training is designed to serve the purpose of ToT for PRODIP District Public Policy Reforms (DPPR).

Present in the meeting were **Sheela Tasneem Haq**, Director, Civil Society

Organisation, PRODIP, Asia Foundation, Russell Pepe, Chief of Party, PRODIP, Asia Foundation, Bangladesh, **Dr. Rizwan Khair**, Director, IGS, **Dr. Sanaul Mostafa**, Consultant, IGS, **Munir Uddin Shamim**, Senior Programme Manager, IGS and **Farhana Razzaque**, Research Associate, IGS. **Sheela Tasnim Haq** gave the welcoming speech; Russell Pepe delivered a speech at the inaugural session while **Munir Uddin Shamim** and **Farhana Razzaque** coordinated the overall session.

Activities of the Director

Conference on Governance and Policy

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director of IGS attended a conference on Governance and Public Policy in South East Asia which was jointly organised by North South University and University of Bergen, Norway in North South University premises from 13-14 July. In that conference he presented a paper titled "Exploring the Impact of Democratic Transition and Bureaucratic Discretion".

Meetings

On 19 July, **Dr. Rizwan Khair** attended two meetings. One meeting was at the National Defence College (NDC) to advise the participant researchers on their research papers and another meeting was with the partners of the BEGN project regarding project partnership with University of Manitoba and North South University at North South University premises. The meeting was jointly organised by University of Manitoba and North South University.

On 27 July, **Dr. Rizwan Khair** had a meeting with Tracey Lane, New Governance Adviser of World Bank, Kenya at IGS.

International Conference on Social Work Social Development: Action and Impact 2012

Jannatul Fardosh, Research Assistant of IGS attended an International Conference titled "Social Work Social Development: Action and Impact 2012" at Stockholm, Sweden from July 8-12. The conference was jointly organised by the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). In the conference she presented a paper titled "Domestic Violence Against Women in Urban Bangladesh: A Case Study". In her presentation she presented some findings of the major reasons and outcomes of domestic violence against women in Bangladesh.

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR)

Workshops held on "Citizens Involvement in Budget Preparation"

A number of workshops on 'Citizens Involvement in Budget Preparation' were held in different parts of Bangladesh such as Moulvibazar, Jessore, Noakhali, Tangail, Patuakhali and Gaibandha. The purpose of these workshops is to increase citizens' awareness on preparation and implementation of local and central budget, the rights of people to know about the budget and participate in the decision making processes of the budget. Civil servants including Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, UNO's; people's representatives from Union Councils, Upazila Parishads, civil society members and professional bodies all participated in the workshop.

Media Roundtable for Budget Journalists

ANSA-SAR and Journalism Training for Research Initiative (JATRI) jointly organised a roundtable on the budget Fiscal Year (FY) 12-13 at JATRI Conference Room on 18 July on the budget set by the government. **Dr. Mirza Azizul Islam**, Former Finance Adviser to the Caretaker



Government of Bangladesh and **Moazzem Hossain**, Editor, Financial Express spoke at the occasion regarding the impact of the new budget that has been set by the government, the responsibilities of financial journalists and the prospects of a career in financial journalism. Many journalists from print and electronic media were present at the event.

Published Articles

The Daily Star: Demography: The decider? by **M Shahidul Islam** and **Rubayet Hamid**, 08 July 2012

The Daily Star: Making village court gender-friendly: An indispensable pathway to governance by **Munir Uddin Shamim**, 21 July 2012

Emerald: Post-Crisis South Asia: Monetary Management & Macroprudential Regulation by **M. Shahidul Islam** and **Dilip Nachane**, 2012

Droho: Online based article by Munir Uddin Shamim, 29 July 2012

MNS Updates

Seminar Talk on 'Higgs Boson: The God Particle'



Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed delivered a seminar talk titled 'Higgs Boson: the God Particle' at the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, BRAC University, 12 July, 2012. His talk covered the topics: what are bosons? Bose-Einstein Statistics, Higgs Boson and why it is called God particle? He briefly presented the life, education, teaching and research of **Satyendra Nath Bose** of Dhaka University, his communication with Albert Einstein. In 1921, Professor Bose

joined as Reader of the Department of Physics of the recently founded University of Dhaka. He set up the new department including laboratories for M. Sc. and B. SC. (Honours) and taught thermodynamics as well as James Clerk Maxwell's theory of electromagnetism. In 1924, Bose adapted his lecture into a short article called "Planck's Law and the Hypothesis of Light Quanta" and sent it to Albert Einstein. Einstein translated Bose's paper into German, and saw to it that it was published in Zeitschrift für Physik under Bose's name, in 1924. It was the foundation of Bose-Einstein statistics which developed later. The particles which follow this statistics are called bosons-the name coined by Paul Dirac recognizing the contribution of Professor S. N. Bose.

The July 4, 2012 announcement that a particle similar to Higgs boson had been discovered at the CERN laboratories in Geneva made news around the world. It is often said that this particle provides the crucial clue to how all the other particles get their masses. Peter Higgs of the University of Edinburgh proposed in 1964 the existence of Higgs boson, which has no charge, no spin, and no colour. It disappears in a trillionth of a second. The former director of Fermilab and Nobel Laureate Leon Lederman in his book 'The God Particle: If the Universe is the Answer, What is the Question?', gave the name God particle because he felt it is "so central to the state of physics today, so crucial to our understanding of the structure of matter, yet so elusive, that I have given it a nickname....."

The talk was supported by some video clips of CERN's announcement, commentary by Peter Higgs, and ended with a Tagore song related to the 'string theory of the universe.' It was attended by good number of audience from within and outside of the university.

Visit to CARS, University of Dhaka

On the 18th of July, 2012, the students of Department of the Mathematics and Natural Sciences along with three faculty members both of Biotechnology and Microbiology program visited the Centre for Advanced Research in Sciences (CARS) located at University of Dhaka. The group was supposed to see advanced equipment of biotechnology and microbiology such as high-tech bioreactors and fermenters used for research. Guided by **Professor Dr. Md. Mozammel Hoq**, Department of Microbiology, the visiting team was taken to the fermentation lab. He explained the various equipments and some of their mechanisms in a very easy and understandable manner. Bioreactors may refer to any system or a vessel in which a chemical reaction is carried out which involves living micro-organisms or biochemical substances derived from such organisms. This process can either be carried out with the presence of oxygen i.e. aerobic or without oxygen i.e. anaerobic. These bioreactors are commonly cylindrical, ranging in size from litres to cubic metres, and are often made of stainless steel. Fermentation is the process of extracting energy from organic matter such as carbohydrates by oxidation using an electron acceptor which is produced from a biological system. For example, in food processing, fermentation implies conversion of carbohydrates into alcohols by microorganisms like yeast or bacteria. Fermentation in simple terms is the chemical conversion of sugars into ethanol. Fermentation carried out by different organisms, substrates and reaction condition can produce different products such as ethanol, lactic acid, methane etc. In laboratory, the reactions are controlled to produce desired products under highly controlled conditions. The technologically advanced bioreactor gives the option of controlling many essential factors like temperature,

pressure, pH, oxygen level. The bioreactor shown to the team was a BioFlo-110 modular bench top fermentor. It has the controlling options and is controlled automatically using computer software. It is a cylindrical vessel with volume capacities ranging from 5 to 15 litres. The bioreactor has different mechanisms of keeping the optimum conditions under control and the values of which are entered into a software. The reaction vessel is attached to a large controlling device which in turn is connected to a computer. The user can input the desired conditions to be maintained and collect the data of the fermentation from the computer. The temperature is kept under control with the help of insulated blanket surrounding the vessel and condenser with pipes running within the vessel. There is a separate chiller attached to the device to supply cold water when required. The temperature is detected by the controlling device. There is a system of controlling pH level with the help of acid and base. Either of them is added when the pH level deviates from the desired or optimum pH. Additionally there are impellers (fan like blades) that help with mixing and dissolving oxygen from bubbles. The motors are located at the top.

The lab that was shown to the visiting team had many state-of-the-art instruments essential in advancing biological research. This lab was put together with a very high budget and is one of kind in the entire country.

Seminar on 'Cancer: The Silent Killer'

The Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS), BRAC University arranged a seminar on July 19, 2012, entitled 'Cancer: The Silent Killer' which was presented by **Dr. Mohammad Sorowar Hossain**- a visiting faculty of the department.

Everyday about 21,000 cancer-related deaths occur globally. In contrast, 7,000 people die because of HIV. Unlike HIV or other infectious diseases, cancer is not contagious. Due to this fact, cancer does not catch that much attention; it is killing people silently. A total of 7.6 million people died globally in 2008. It has been estimated that there will be 21.1 million new cancer cases, of which 13.2 million cancer deaths will occur by 2030. The total economic impact due to cancer associated premature death and disability has been estimated to be as high as \$895 billion worldwide. Like these, several thought provoking facts were discussed by the speaker to depict the past, elucidate the present and forecast the future situations of cancer not only in Bangladesh but all around the globe also. The exciting seminar came to end by discussing the potential treatments and preventive measures followed by a lively question-answer session.

Dr. Sorowar Hossain did his PhD in molecular biology from National University of Singapore (NUS). His recent research engagement is on cancer biology at Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School and National Cancer Centre, Singapore. As a post-doctoral scientist, he has delineated the molecular mechanism of a novel anti-cancer drug. He also worked for ICDDR'B. He completed his Bachelor (Hons) and Master's degrees in microbiology from the University of Dhaka. Closing and Certificate Award Ceremony of the Eighth Training Course on Oceanography Principles and Applications, Dhaka, July 28, 2012.

The Closing and Certificate Award Ceremony of the "Eighth Training Course on Oceanography Principles and Applications" was held on Saturday, July 28, 2012 at 5.30 pm at the Auditorium of the Atomic Centre, Dhaka. Mr. A. S. M. Firoz,

Chairman, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission graced the occasion as the Chief Guest at the closing function chaired by **Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad**. **Professor Naiyuum Choudhury** gave the welcome address. The function was attended by the participants, resource persons, NOAMI members, guests and representatives of the news media.

Seminar on Rooppur Nuclear Power Project- Present Status

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Scientists' Association organized a special seminar on Rooppur Nuclear Power Project held on 31 July 2012 at the BAEC **Dr. Anowar Hossain** Auditorium, Agargaon. Architect Yeafesh Osman, State Minister for Science and Technology, GOB, was the Chief Guest. **Professor Naiyuum Choudhury** was invited as a special guest to comment on the keynote paper presented by **Dr. Shawkat Akbar**, Director Nuclear Power Division, BAEC. **Professor Choudhury** made some specific recommendations in the seminar. These included immediate recruitment of scientists and engineers for the project and sending them for practical training at the , Rosatom, the Russian vendor for the supply of the 100 MW Nuclear Power Plant, consideration of separate pay structures for the scientists and engineers working in the RNPP, introduction of MS course nuclear engineering in public and private universities in collaboration with BRAC and directly involving nuclear power experts like **Dr. MA Matin, Engr. M. A. Qaiyum, Engr. ABM Nurul Islam** and others who have vast experience in project planning and implementation, operation and maintenance of nuclear power plants. The seminar was attended by the scientists, engineers and officers of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and scientists from other organizations and members of the electronic and print media.

"New faces in campus" and " Leaving us"

New Faces

Pharmacy department added three new faculty members in their team.

Ms. Nishat Zareen Khair, completed her masters from the School of Pharmacy, Uk.

Mr. Avijit Dey, obtained his masters degree from Dhaka University.

Mr. Imon Rahman, did his masters from University of Skode, Sweden.

Ms. Roufa Khanum joined as a Research Associate in Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER). She did her masters in Environment and Agriculture from Eden Mohila College.

Mr. Md. Maksudur Rahman joined in Registrar's Office as an IT Officer, completed MBA from American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB).

Three Lab Technical Officers joined in School of Engineering and Computer Science, **Mr. Naser Md. Isteaque Alam, Mr. Md. Afsarul Amin** and **Mr. Nabil Shaker Rahi**, completed their undergraduate program from CSE Department, BRACU.

Leaving us

Dr. Ahmed Kamal, Assistant Professor, CSE

Mr. Haydory Akbar Ahmed Senior Lecturer of ESS Department

Mahbub Or Rahman, Lecturer, Savar Campus and

Ms. Suborna Jesmin, BDI

SECS Updates

IEEE BRACU SB Civil Aviation Authority Complex tour

On 14th of July, 2012, IEEE BRACU SB, accompanied by three faculty members, had the opportunity to explore Civil Aviation Authority Complex helping the students to discover how every unit inside the airport complex synchronizes with each other to manage air traffic. The 4 hour long tour included visits to the Air Control Central (ACC), control tower, radar equipment room, radar station and a quick ride through the hanger. ACC encompasses Air Traffic Control (ATC) and Approach Control and both these control units work side by side to confirm safe landing and take-offs. Methodically briefed by **Md. Masud Rana**, Assistant Director and **Md. Abul Kalam Azad**, Deputy Director of Civil Aviation Authority, the students came to know how the aviation officers work alongside thus maintaining a good balance in the system. In ACC a person always attends to calls from pilots in the territory of Bangladesh, or to be more precise, the territory of the radar coverage, and keeps manual reports of flight details. The details includes: departure time, departure zone, arrival time, arrival zone, aircraft name, duration of flight. Whereas the approach control system monitors the covered area and instructs the pilots using information such as level, bearing, speed and flight no. from the radar scope. Approach control gives a radial coverage of 200 nautical miles, and it can extend the coverage to Rangoon. The radar system updates ATC about 3 types of flights- departure, arrival and over-fly. The control tower, which is considered as the main centre, has a coverage of 4000ft above ground level and a horizontal view range of 25 nautical miles. It makes use of VHF (Very High Frequency) to communicate with air buses. The tower lays a great view of the runway which witnesses landing and take-offs of several airships every day. It has 8 boarding bridges and 24 parking bases. There are 2 flight rules that pilots follow during flights. VFR (Visual Flight Rules) where pilots run the plane by visually estimating safety, and IFR (Instrumental Flight Rules) when pilots run the bus by using instrumental calibrations used usually during abrupt weather, heavy clouds etc..

Radar equipment room inside the ATC tower has the output of the radar station via ground lines and it processes the output of the radar and brings it to user interface. Next, students were taken to the radar station. The station maintained several sophisticated equipments known as primary and secondary radars. This is where the students could actually relate their theoretical knowledge to the procedure of radar communication. The basic function of radar is to detect objects at a certain range and calculate the distance from itself. Primary radar deals with detection of airships and obstacles only but provides no information. Secondary radar communicates with transponders built inside airbuses to return back information required by Air Control Centre.

It should be noted that Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport is the only airbase in Bangladesh that is being used by domestic and international airlines and also by the defense. The magnanimous sight of the officers working and maintaining the systems encouraged many students to pursue their career in this field. The tour truly was an experience to be preserved and learned from.

SPH Updates

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

The MPH 620 course on 'Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases' was held during July 8 - July 26, 2012. **Dr. Richard A. Cash** from School of Public Health, Harvard University and **Dr. Steve Luby** from icddr,b were the coordinators for this course. **Matthew Pflaum**, and **Tariq-Ul-Hassan Khan** acted as Teaching Fellows in this course. Faculties from icddr,b and BRAC taught in the class. The final exam for this course was held on 22 July 2012. During this course the students had field visits at Dhaka Hospital, icddr,b; icddr,b Matlab station and icddr,b Kamalapur station to collect data for their short studies. 36 students were divided in 6 groups and two groups were selected for each field. The field visits took place during 22-24 July 2012, and the students submitted and presented their field visit reports on 26 July, 2012.

COMMUNITY MIDWIFERY EDUCATION PROGRAM (CMEP)

A Curriculum Sharing Meeting was held on 5 July, 2012 at the Bangladesh Nursing Council (BNC) Auditorium from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. The objective of the meeting was to share the curriculum with stakeholders from the Government as well as development partners for their valuable inputs with a view to its approval from the government. Welcome addresses were delivered by **Ms. Shuriya Begum**, Registrar, Bangladesh Nursing Council and **Dr. S. A. J. Musa**, Director, PHC and Line Director (MNCAH), DGHS. A presentation on the draft curriculum was made by **Mr. Mofiz Ullah**, Teacher, College of Nursing. This was followed by an open discussed, chaired by **Dr. Timothy Grant Evans**, Dean, JPGSPH. The meeting ended with closing remarks and vote of thanks from **Mr. Tanvir Ahmed**, PS to Senior Health Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Participants from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), Department for International Development (DFID), Directorate of Nursing Services, Bangladesh Nursing Council, Dhaka Nursing College, College of Nursing, Nursing Institute of Mitford Hospital, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) and Institute of Child and Mother Hospital (ICMH) attended the meeting and provided constructive feedback to improve the Diploma in Midwifery curriculum.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed with the following 6 Implementing Partner Organizations (IPOs) for the implementation of the Midwifery project:

1. Friends In Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB) - Sylhet
2. Garo Baptist Convention Christian Health Project (GBC-CHP) - Netrokona
3. HOPE Foundation - Cox's Bazar
4. Lutheran Aid for Medicine Bangladesh (LAMB) - Dinajpur
5. Partner in Health and Development (PHD) - Khulna
6. Shimantik- Sylhet

JPGSPH, which is leading the Community Midwifery Education Program, has been procuring Skill Lab equipment, required for practical sessions under the Diploma in Midwifery scheduled to start later this year.

BRAC HEALTHCARE INNOVATIONS PROGRAMME

All members of BHIP (BRAC Healthcare Innovations Programme), have been very active in the month of July making numerous field visits to Rangpur, Mymensingh and Uttara. The Service Provision Team has been working on build up of the skeleton of the care pathway for BHIP and with a view to enrich the service package by doing community health needs assessment, FGDs in age specific groups, so that any necessary issues or services missed in the service package that could be added to the service package comes up. The Team intends to go to Rangpur and Mymensingh soon.

On the other hand the research team has just returned from a 3-week extensive field visit to Rangpur after completing service mapping, covering as many as 12 districts. They also carried out FGDs to short-list healthcare providers. Meanwhile, the Finance Team has also been in continuous communication with **Mr. Kasir** (Actuary) regarding critical issues of data collection and collection of data he asked for is underway. They have visited BRAC micro finance programs (Dabi and Progoti) in Uttara and Jhigatola to gain insights on their functionalities and also been occupied with extension of BHIP up to June next year.

Concurrently, the Information Management team has been observing various other BRAC programmes and sites, attended a Annual MIS conference 2012-organized under OP HIS & eHealth of HPNSDP FY 2011-12 (June 2012), DGHS- MIS, and bKash. Moreover, it has prepared some documents and flowcharts on Building draft requirement scope, IM development steps, Business requirement document preparation steps, BHIP IM technical tasks overview, BRAC Shushasthya Automation Plan, bHIP - bKash collaboration possibilities, and bHIP IM Preliminary Information Requirement.

FOOD SECURITY NUTRITIONAL SURVEILLANCE PROJECT (FSNSP)



With the transition of FSNSP from Helen Keller International- Bangladesh to James P Grant School of Public Health, the FSNSP project office was shifted from HKI premises to JPGSPH campus on 1 July 2012. Twenty three FSNSP staff on HKI pay roll transitioned to BRAC University according to the transition plan during this month.

A refresher training for Senior Monitoring Officers, Quality Control Officers and Data Collection Officers was held on 1 July 2012 at Dhaka Ahsania Mission. The training was facilitated by the Field Manager, Senior Data Management Officer and Training Officer. In addition to discussion about data collection questionnaire, monitoring reports of Phase 1 of Round 8 data collection and findings of Quality Control Officers were also discussed with a view to improving the quality of the data. Phase II of Round 8 data collection started on 3 July 2012 and will finish on 12 August 2012.

During the month the Data Management Unit entered the data collected during

Phase 1 of Round 8. The Analysis and Reporting Unit analyzed Rounds 4, 5 and 6 data and prepared their findings for finalizing the FSNSP 2nd year report.

Dr. Akram Hussain, Project Manager visited Moulvibazar along with **Ms. Shannon King** and **Mr. Rafae Wathra**, interns working on the FSNSP 2nd year report to monitor the ongoing Phase II of Round 8 data collection.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid was appointed as the Associate Dean of JPGSPH in July 2012. **Dr. Rashid** has been working in Bangladesh since 1993 and at the School since 2004. She also leads and coordinates the Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS at the School. Since 2007, she has been a

Visiting Professor at the Berlin School of Public Health and teaches Gender, Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights, at Charite, Germany each year and in 2011, she became an Adjunct Visiting Faculty, Professorial Lecturer in Global Health, at George Washington University, Washington DC, USA. She has worked in several research partnerships with international and national institutions and is a member of a number of local and international organizations, seeking to promote gender, social justice, health and sexuality rights in the country and internationally. She also serves on the Advisory Board of the Sexuality and Rights Program at Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK. In 2006, she was awarded a Visiting Fellowship at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Singapore. In 2011, she was a recipient of the Fulbright Award and spent six months as a Visiting Scholar at Columbia University, New York, USA conducting research on gender, sexual health and lives of Bangladeshi immigrants. **Dr. Rashid** is committed to research, education and advocacy in the areas of Gender and Health, Reproductive and Sexual Rights, Sexuality and Rights of marginal groups and poor urban populations. She has published widely and co-authored a book on birthing practices.

Dr. Nadira Sultana Kakoly, MBBS, MPH, joined the project titled Governance for urban health equity: mobilizing demand for Primary Health Care among the Urban Poor in Bangladesh, funded by the IDRC, in July 2012. She has over 8 years of experience in public health, including 5 years of previous research experience in ICDDR,B.

Dr. Akram Hussain, Project Manager and **Dr. Enamul Hasib**, Project Coordinator who are members of the Technical Committee on Nutrition Information Service (NIS) attended a technical meeting at Institute of Public Health Nutrition on 25 July 2012 to update the HMIS indicators for National Nutrition Service of HPNSDP.

TLC Updates

An open discussion with the Pure Science departments of BRAC University

TLC organized an open discussion session on July 12th with the faculty members and the departmental Chairs from pure science departments of BRAC University. The members were selected on the criteria of being serving at BRACU for one/more than one year (at least THREE semesters) and who had has the experience of Teaching -Learning workshop of TLC. The pure science departments include -

departments of Architecture, CSE, EEE, MNS and Pharmacy. The objective of the session was to get constructive feedback and ideas on-What are the existing challenges that the pure science departments are facing in terms of teaching and learning at BRACU and what are the steps should be taken to address those challenges and how BRACU could bring innovation in teaching learning process in the Pure science subject/areas through TLC workshops. The following sharing was generated and several suggestions have been made in the session:

- Selecting course coordinator (Focal person) from respective departments who will be assigned to review the course contents of 101 courses and will be involved in observing course delivery of the junior faculty.
- A suggestion was made that whether BRACU could engage the senior faculty in terms of teaching experience and pedagogical knowledge to take the 101 courses.
- A suggestion was made for a systemic leisure for the faculty in each semester.
- There was a suggestion for those faculty members who are constantly getting poor students' evaluation might have a chance to observe the classes of senior/more competent faculty in respective departments.
- Re-starting of tutorial sessions has been given emphasis.
- It was also mentioned whether the sr. faculty members could give support in strengthening the mentoring support for junior faculty members at BRACU

BRAC field visit program at Manikgong



TLC organized a day long BRAC field visit program for 7th TLC participants on July 14th. The day's activities started after reaching at BRAC Manikgong Regional office. After a short refreshment the participants were taken to the 'Uchutia village' to visit several BRAC program from the field. At first they joined the monthly meeting of BRAC's microfinance

program (Dabi). There they came to know about how loan is distributed among poor village women and how it has improved their financial condition. Then they were moved to another house to see the BRAC health program followed by the visit of BRAC primary School.

The participants were satisfied once they came to know the students were dropouts from government schools but after admitted to BRAC School they show excellent academic achievement through the 100 percent passing rate in grade-v 'somaponi examination'. Finally the participants had the chance to visit the Ayesha Abed Foundation before lunch. They observed the production procedure of Aarong goods; the knitting and dyeing section, the embroidery and furniture section and gathered the practical knowledge of the water recycling process while visiting the effluent treatment plant. On the way back to Dhaka, they had a visit to BRAC Nursery and Sanitary napkin production Unit also.

