

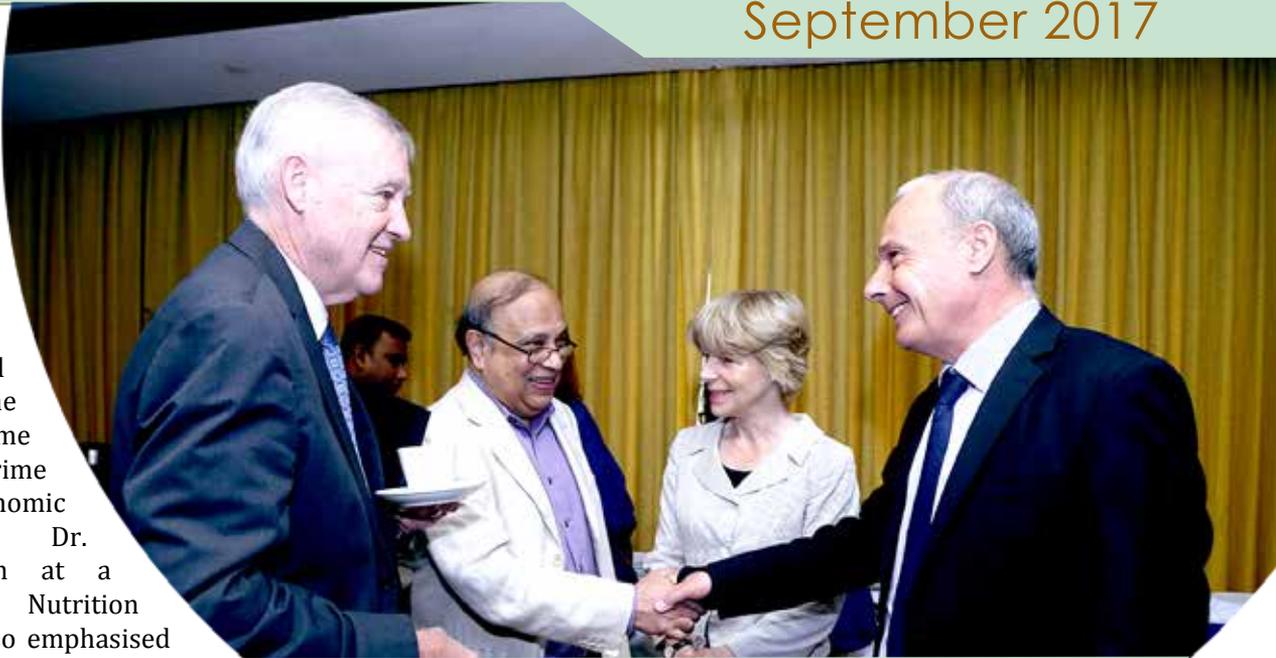


September 2017

Maximum importance should be given to the children and pregnant mothers in order to eliminate the malnutrition of the country and make successful the nutrition programme of the state, said Prime Minister's Economic Affairs Advisor Dr. Moshir Rahman at a seminar on Nutrition Governance. He also emphasised on the diversification of crops and the spread of social security programmes. He also said the government must work to ensure nutrition for children which are a prerequisite to attain its mission to achieve SDGs by 2030. The seminar was organized by the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University at a city hotel in Dhaka on 12 September, 2017.

"Agriculture is the centre of the discussion on nutrition since the agricultural policies affect the national health of a country" said Food Laureate and Co-winner of World Food Prize 2016 and founding director of HarvestPlus, Dr. Howarth Bouis, while presenting a keynote paper titled 'Agriculture's Primary Role to Provide Nutritious Diets for National Health'. He suggested that bio-fortification in agriculture would be cost-effective to arrange nutritious food varieties for the poor families.

Adequate zinc consumption is a must to ensure nutrition for all as deficiency of the essential mineral is one of the major barriers to the country's progress in nutrition indicators, he added. Zinc is essential for the function of many enzymes and metabolic processes, and the regular consumption of zinc can reduce different common infant



Nutrition Governance Seminar

Good nutrition is linked with social and economic development of the country -says experts

morbidities, like diarrhoea, pneumonia and stunting, he said.

Citing a recent study, Howarth said approximately 70 percent people of Bangladesh do not have adequate zinc, thereby suffering from zinc deficiency. The government needs to put emphasis on the consumption of zinc and other nutrients, he said. It also needs to promote the crops containing nutrients to improve dietary quality, said Howarth.

Good nutrition is linked with effective intellectual capacity and higher productivity - this is critical for the social and economic development of the country, said Mr. Edouard Beigbeder, the country representative of Unicef Bangladesh. He also said the period of vulnerability to nutritional deficiencies starts when a child stays in the mother's womb, and it continues until the child becomes two years old, when brain develops significantly. "If a



child is undernourished during this critical window of opportunity, the damage is irreversible and the potential to fully thrive in life will be lost,” he said.

Although the country has made a significant progress in the past decade in reducing chronic malnutrition, one in three children here are stunted which accounts for nearly 5.5 million of them being deprived of their right to survival and development, said Edouard.

Ms. Anuradha Narayan, nutrition section chief of UNICEF Bangladesh, said child stunting affected school readiness and performance as well as impacted the country’s economic productivity. She said the impact of nutritional deficiencies in food intake could reduce

adult earning of the country by up to 15 per cent.

BIGD research fellow Dr. Shanawez Hossain said a collaborative effort was needed to solve problems in reaching remote areas with nutrition projects and detection of acute malnutrition. Chaired by BIGD executive director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the seminar was also addressed by parliament member Mr. Farhad Hossain, Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition director Professor Sandy Thomas, Brac Health, Nutrition and Population programme head Mahfuza Rifat, James P Grant School of Public Health Professor Dr. Malay K Mridha and Dr. Md. Tanvir Hasan, Bidyanondo Foundation Finance Secretary Mr. Jakir Hossain, among others.

BIGD’s Research Fellow attended several meetings

Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow of BIGD participated in the Course Evaluation Meeting with the Trainers & Researchers of the Academy of Work (AoW) on 16 September, 2017 at Friedrich Elbert Stiftung (FES) Office, Dhaka. The aim of the meeting was to discuss success and shortcomings of conducting AoW first batch and to plan the next one. He also attended the BRAC advocacy team meeting on 21 September, 2017 at BRAC to discuss ways to make BIGD’s research work more visible to policy makers by organizing joint events and activities. Both BIGD and BRAC Advocacy shared views about jointly organizing advocacy events. Among others Mr. Sadrul Hasan Mazumder, Programme Coordinator, Advocacy for Social Change,



BRAC, Ms. Zeenath Sultana, Partnership Analyst and Ms. Nazia Islam, Policy Analyst of BRAC Advocacy for Social Change and Ms Nazneen Ahmed and Farzana Siddiqua of BIGD were present in the meeting.

Dr. Hossain also attended the Stakeholder Consultation meeting of Metro Dhaka Transformation

Platform on 27 September 2017 at a hotel in the city. The aim of the platform is to discuss sustainable, metropolitan-wide solutions to improve livability and prosperity for the residents of Dhaka, and to define a shared vision for the city and an action plan to pave the way for Dhaka's transformation. Among others Mr. Peter Ellis, Lead Urban Economist, Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice, World Bank; Professor Nazrul Islam, Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman and related experts participated in the event. He also attended the Sharing meeting on "Urban Disaster Preparedness and Response: A Synthesis Review of Public Documents in Bangladesh" held on 27 September, 2017 at a city hotel. The aim of the meeting was to share a Synthesis Review

of Public Documents on urban disaster preparedness in Bangladesh. This analysis was done to collate and critically review all relevant public documents on disaster preparedness and response in Bangladesh, assessing the policies, strategies and plans currently in place, in order to determine the strengths and weaknesses of these plans in the event of a major urban crisis. Mr. Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury (Maya) Bir Bikram, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was Chief Guest in the event. Dr. Maksud Kamal, Professor & Dean Faculty of Earth and Environmental Science, University of Dhaka presented the key note.

BIGD Researchers presented paper at RESOLVE Network Global Forum

BIGD's research fellow Dr. Wahid Abdallah along with Dr. C. Christine Fair, Associate Professor in the Peace and Security Studies Program, within Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service presented paper titled Islamism Militancy in Bangladesh: Public Awareness and Attitudes, where BIGD's Senior Research Associate Ms. Syeda Salina Aziz and Dr. Ali Riaz, Professor of the Department of Politics and Government, Illinois State University presented paper on Democracy and Sharia in Bangladesh: Surveying Support at the RESOLVE Network's 2017 Annual Forum on Confronting the Next Wave of Violent Extremism. The forum, hosted by

the US Institute of Peace held on September 27, 2017. Featured discussions from preeminent international scholars and experts from across the Network's 20 plus partner organizations. In addition to offering opportunities to connect with leading thinkers, practitioners and policy makers engaged in policy responses to violent extremism, the day long series of thematic panels and roundtable discussions highlighted findings from a year-long study on the rise of violent extremism in Bangladesh and preview upcoming research on the politics of religion in the Lake Chad Basin region. Dr. Rahman, ED of BIGD also attended the forum.

Orientation of Master of Development Studies (MDS) held



The orientation program for Master of Development Studies (MDS) of Fall 2017 semester was held on Sunday, 10 September 2017 at the BIGD conference room. The program was planned to serve as a briefing session on the nature, structure, and purpose of the MDS degree scheme. BIGD Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman set the scene by focusing on the broader purpose and pedagogy of higher education, followed by Senior Academic Adviser Prof. Niaz Ahmed Khan's overview of the rationale and design of the MDS scheme. Among others, Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow and Mr. Tarikul Alam Sharif, Department Coordination Officer of BIGD spoke on the occasion. A total 23 (Twenty Three) new students – representing diverse and rich professional and academic backgrounds - attended the program.

Researcher's other activities

Ms. Simeen Mahmud attended as a discussant at the seminar titled Challenges of Change: Training Women to Manage in the Bangladeshi Garment Sector, organized by Center for Advanced Research on Social Sciences of Dhaka University on September 24, 2017. She also attended as panel discussants at a National Workshop titled "Women's Accessibility in Property" organized by ALRD and SANGAT on September 27, 2017 at the city.

Executive Director's Activities

BIGD's ED Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman had several meetings in September 2017 with a number of distinguished personalities such as prominent academics, policy makers and researchers regarding the research collaborations and other relevant issues of BIGD.

Dr. Rahman had meetings with Dr. Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Vice-Chairperson, BRAC; Mr. Anir Chowdhury, Policy Advisor, Dr. Ramiz Uddin, Head of Results Management, Ms. Rumana Sharmin, Results and Knowledge Management Expert, Access to Information (a2i) Programme, Prime Minister's Office; Ms. Hasina Mushrofa, Director, Urban Dept Program (UDP), BRAC; Austin Davis, Postdoctoral Associate and Lecturer, Yale University regarding Rohingya refugee work; Prof. Dr. Jaap M. de Heer, Team Leader, Bangladesh Delta Plan regarding formulation of Project Delta Plan Bangladesh -2100; Mr. Atiqur rahman Khan, Director General and Dr. Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Commissioner of Anti Corruption Commission, Dr. Moinul Khan, Director General, Directorate of Customs Intelligence and Investigation, Syed Mushfeque Rahman, Additional Commissioner and Deputy Project Director, VAT Online Project, of National Board of Revenue and Mohammad Abdur

Rab, Joint Director, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit.

ED also attended a Forum meeting on International Education for Global Citizens, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) where he also met with Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Mohammad Asif-Uz-Zaman, Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education. He also participated the second annual RESOLVE Network forum in Washington, DC organized by U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP).

He also had several Skype meeting with Anna Bellver, Senior Consultant, World Bank; Dr. Sufia Askari, Director, Children's Investment Fund Foundation; Dr. Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak, Professor of Economics at Yale University; Farzana Bhuiyan, Programme & Executive Assistant at Porticus. Dr. Rahman also attended the Academy Council meeting of BRAC University and a roundtable of HELVETAS. Dr. Rahman also attended a dinner meeting hosted by USAID Mission Director to meet Dr. Loiuise FOX, USAID Chief Economist and a lunch meeting with Centre for Policy Dialogue regarding a TTI programme.

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