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Seminar on Performance Management System of Public Service Commission and Information Commission



(From left to right) Mr. Martuza Ahmed, Dr. Sadaat Hussein, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu MP, Mr. Muhammad Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, Mr. Ekram Ahmed and Prof. Dr. Khurshida Begum Sayeed seen at the seminar

A Seminar on *Performance Management of the Public Service Commission and Information Commission of Bangladesh* was organised by BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, in partnership with the Cabinet Division of the Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank on 30th August, 2015 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka.

Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Information attended the event as the Chief Guest. He urged the government officials to act within the law and come out of corrupt practices like lobbying and political influence. He emphasised on the need for Government of Bangladesh to adjust certain practices, to be able to stand alongside other countries of the region and the globe, as a well performing democracy. He highlighted the issues that can help the public servants to improve their efficiency level and said they must be 'innovative' and earn 'entrepreneurial' quality to bypass the influence. He also stressed on building a skill-based administration by practicing meritocracy. He added, the Government Performance Management System (GPMS) can help public officials focus and align their expertise with the right institutions.

Dr. Sadaat Hussein, former Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC) Chairman and Cabinet Secretary, in the keynote speech made some crucial points. He argued that control of corruption practice at the top four levels of government institutions and statutory bodies, will positively impact the performance of all other officials of those institutions. He appreciated Cabinet Division for sharing the experience of GPMS with other government institutions, and wished that smooth adaption of GPMS will enhance the mobility of both the institutions.

Since GPMS has already been established in Bangladesh, there are important lessons to look at on how the implementation has gone so far. These lessons were shared by Mr. Mohammad Mahiuddin Khan, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Division. He talked about both the positives and negatives that the government has had to face in attempting a smooth transition of the GPMS into their current system. He noted that moving the focus from process-orientation to results-orientation of the ministries has proved to be a major hindrance.

BIGD Executive Director Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman presided over the seminar, addressed by Cabinet Secretary Muhammad Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, BPS Chairman Ekram Ahmed, Information Commissioner Prof. Dr. Khurshida Begum Sayeed and Information Secretary Martuza Ahmed.

Prof. Khurshida emphasised on the need for the top level officials to maintain certain performance standards as their actions have a great impact on the performance of all other personnel of the institution. Mr. Bhuiyan revealed the audience on how the government is devising an accountability tool, which, if built appropriately, can be used to hold any government officials, even ministers, accountable for the service they provide.

In the open discussion, Dr. Mahbub Ullah, Professor, University of Dhaka expressed a slightly pessimistic view of the GPMS, stating that certain rigidities were

present in government institutions and therefore it is difficult to think that government officials will follow performance management norms. Prof. Md. Golam Rahman, BSS Chairman and Pro-Vice Chancellor of Daffodil University, also voiced his opinion, saying that transparency is a major issue and that it is rarely easy to gather information from government officials. He also shed light on the fact that most Annual Development Budget financed government projects get done towards the end of the fiscal year, greatly compromising the quality of the product. In extreme cases, these projects don't even get completed on time.

In the concluding remarks, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman said there is a strong positive relationship between an efficient bureaucracy and a better performing economy. He reminded the audience that bureaucracy is in fact the trustee of the nation and therefore has a duty to the nation to always improve and maintain performance standards.

Among others, members from the two commissions, government officials, journalists and members of the civil society attended the seminar.

The main purpose of the seminar was to understand how the Government Performance Management System (GPMS) works in Bangladesh and to incorporate that knowledge into creating a better functioning and efficient performance assessment process.



Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman is seen making his concluding remarks

Roundtable on Urbanisation Challenges: Formulating a Research Agenda for Policy Action



Participants at the Roundtable

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University and London based International Growth Centre (IGC) co-organised a Roundtable on Urbanisation Challenges: Formulating a Research Agenda for Policy Action on August 22nd, 2015 at the Daily Star Centre, Dhaka. The discussion focused on current urbanisation challenges affecting Dhaka with the aim to define a research agenda that can be helpful in providing policy solutions to the downsides of urban density.

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director, BIGD and Country Director, IGC gave an introductory speech on the urban challenges that Dhaka is been facing for now more than two decades: congestion, environment and economic disparities. These challenges have been undermining the quality of life in Dhaka as regularly reported by the urban livability indexes. Mr. Fahad Khalil, IGC Lead Academic and Castor Professor of Economics and Chair of the Department of Economics, University of Washington, chaired the event.

Architect Iqbal Habib and Architect Tanwir Nawaz contributed to the first session on the congestion issues in Dhaka discussing the necessity of better transport policies for Dhaka city, clear pathways for pedestrians and efforts in educating Dhaka city-dwellers with road



Participants at the Roundtable sharing their views

traffic rules. The use of private transportation in Dhaka streets was also raised as one of the main challenges. Today 80 percent of Dhaka roads are occupied by private transports while public transportation needs to be improved to provide a better and cheaper alternative to Dhaka commuters.

Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Chairperson, Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) introduced the second session focusing on urban health and environment. Dr. Hossain Zillur expressed the need of a continuous dialogue between academia and public sector, and how the former can contribute to provide solutions to the policy makers in health and environmental issues.

Dr. Taibur Rahman, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Planning, and Dr. Khairul Islam, Country Representative, Water Aid Bangladesh, evidenced the need of more government attention to the urban issues. Dr. Taibur Rahman discussed the government activity in drafting the Delta Plan, the upcoming government environmental plan and its priorities. Dr. Khairul Islam highlighted how water borne diseases caused by poor water sanitation infrastructures are putting at stake urban health.

Mr. Rashadul Hasan, Project Coordinator, Value for Waste, Swisscontact, discussed the challenges and the economic potential of waste recycling. He also presented Swisscontact's experience in introducing household recycling practices in Dhaka northern area.

Finally, Mr. Ashekur Rahman of UNDP, introduced the third session on housing and urban disparities presenting the UNDP Urban Housing project and how new forms of collective financing can be implemented

to provide land tenure and housing to the urban poor. Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman also added how urban poverty is a major area about which the decision makers lack research knowledge.

In the concluding remarks, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman and Prof. Khalil discussed the importance of having the public sector, civil societies and private sector discussing with the research institutions in order to find sustainable and long term solutions to the social and environmental challenges faced by Bangladesh.

Public Lecture/Talk

Public Lecture on Security Governance for Conflict Prevention held



Professor Tatsuo Yamane (Right) seen delivering the Lecture

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University organised a Public lecture on Security Governance for Conflict Prevention by Professor Tatsuo Yamane at the BIGD Conference Room on 1st July, 2015. Tatsuo Yamane is an Associate Professor at the Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation (IDEC), Hiroshima University, Japan. He also serves as a research fellow in the Institute for Peace Science Hiroshima University (IPSHU).

In his lecture, Professor Yamane shared the institutional mechanism between Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and West Africa Network for Peace building (WANEP) in West African Region on conflict prevention. Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD moderated the lecture session. Followed by the lecture, BIGD Researchers and Staffs participated in an interesting Q/A session with Professor Yamane.



Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman (From left to right) with the listeners at the event

Among others, the lecture was also attended by BIGD Head of Research Dr. Minhaj Mahmud; Mr. Tsuyoshi Hikita and Ms. Masako Saito, both the Second Secretaries, Mr. Shohei Souoda, Researcher, of the Embassy of Japan in Dhaka respectively; Dr. Jashim Uddin, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) were

present. The public lecture session was concluded with the speech of Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman followed by Iftar.

Mr. Yamane's main areas of interests are International Relations on international peace and security studies, especially on armed conflicts and peace building.

Talk on 'Grassroots Urbanism: A critical investigation into Community Based Organisations in Dhaka's Slum Settlements'

BIGD organised a talk titled 'Grassroots Urbanism: A critical investigation into Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in Dhaka's Bustee Settlements' by Ms. Sally Cawood on August 11th, 2015 at the BIGD Conference Room. Dr. Mirza Hassan, Adjunct Fellow of BIGD chaired session.

In the Talk Ms. Sally Cawood shared her views of working in three slum settlements in Mirpur, Dhaka,

and assess the role of NGO created WASH Community Based Organisations (CBOs), and how they interact with existing power structures and institutions at the community level. The presentation was the outline of some preliminary observations about the role of CBOs in accessing basic services (water, sanitation, electricity), and if/how these community-level initiatives can be up-scaled to city-wide and nationwide movements and regional movements.

Meetings

Opinion-sharing Meeting with Local Government in Sunamganj on Policy Reform Proposals

The Local Governance Programme - Sharique (Phase III), implemented jointly by BIGD and Helvetas Swiss Inter-cooperation, organized an opinion-sharing meeting with representatives from Upazila and Union Parishads of Dharmapasha and Jamalganj Upazila Parishad, Sunamganj district on July 29, 2015. The programme took place at Jamalganj Upazila Parishad conference room in Sunamganj.

The purpose of the dialogue was to present proposals for policy reform, which the SHARIQUE team had prepared, and seek participants' views on the following issues: (a) strengthening of Ward Shobhas as social accountability mechanism (b) reform of Standing Committees and (c) streamlining other project-based and sectoral committees.

The programme was attended by S. M. Shofi Kamal,

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Jamalganj Upazila, Md. Abdul Motaleb Khan, Chairman, Dharmapasha Upazila Parishad, Mokarram Hossain, Chairman, Jamalganj Upazila Parishad. Other participants included Vice Chairmen of both Upazila Parishads, Union Parishad Chairmen, Secretaries and Members.

Under the facilitation of the UNO a group session was held where participants divided themselves into three groups with each group representing each issue. They reviewed the content of the policy reform proposals as a team and later presented their recommendations and corrections. A vibrant interactive session followed, wherein the local government representatives debated and gave feedback on each other's presentations. The half-day programme concluded with lunch.

Course Design Team Meeting-Workshop held

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University in partnership with Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) and Management for Development Foundation (MDF) based in Netherland arranged a workshop titled Design Team Meeting-Workshop as a part of the Capacity Building for Promoting Governance of Nuffic Project at the Hotel Sarina in Banani, Dhaka on 21 September 2015. The participants at the workshop specifically worked on finalising the three courses. The three courses were: Policy Analysis, Strategic Negotiation &

Communication and Organisational and Institutional Development. The participants included members of the course design and programme team from BPATC, BIGD and MDF. Professor Akhter Hossain, Chairperson of Department of Public Administration, University of Dhaka; Afsan Chowdhury, Senior Advisor, Communications, BRAC; Dr. M. Jahirul Quayum, Additional Commissioner, Custom and VAT; Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research, BIGD, BRAC University were also present at the workshop and expressed their valuable opinions.



S.M. Gubair Bin Arafat in facilitation of a session

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director, BPATC; S.M. Gubair Bin Arafat, Research Associate, BIGD; and Sharif Hasan, Deputy Director, BPATC & Farhana Razzaque, Research Associate, BIGD gave presented the course design respectively on the Policy Analysis, Strategic Negotiation & Communication and Organizational & Institutional Development. The courses were finalised based on the suggestions and recommendations that were made during workshop.

Workshops

BIGD organised a Workshop on End-line Planning of Impact Evaluation of the DFID programme

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University, organized a two days Workshop on End-line Planning of Impact Evaluation of the DFID programme to Accelerate Improved Nutrition for the Extreme poor in Bangladesh, phase II on 29-30 July, 2015 at the BIGD Conference Room. Dr. Ferdous Jahan, Lead Researcher; Inka Barnett, Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies (IDS); Nick Nisbett, Research Fellow, IDS; Jessica White, Research Associate, IDS; Richard Longshurt, Research Associate, IDS; and BIGD

research staff Sanjida Hossain, Md. Mahan ul Hoque, Md. Rofiquzzaman, Mushfiqa Khanum, Mistee Rani Saha, Mahbub Hasan, and Gazi Arafat Uz Zaman Markony attended the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to go through the progress so far and discuss and finalize further planning for Endline. Dr. Ferdous Jahan facilitates the workshop where Inka Barnett presented on the expected outcome and impact of the project.

BIGD-CPTU Contract Signing Ceremony to implement PPRP II Extension phase

BIGD, BRAC University and the Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) under the Implementation Monitoring & Evaluation Division (IMED) of the Ministry of Planning (MoP), came together at a ceremony on July 23, 2015, to officially sign the contract for the Public Procurement Reform Project (PPRP) II, under which BIGD will act as the Social Accountability Consultant to help design and implement the social accountability mechanism that aims to institutionalize and develop a Third Party Monitoring System (TPM) in the public procurement process in the country. Based on the lessons learned from the phase II of PPRP, and in consultation with CPTU and the World Bank, BIGD has reformulated the existing Public-Private Stakeholders Committee (PPSC). It will also help ensure effective functioning of the committee so that it can provide policy inputs to strengthen the public procurement system of the country. At the same time, it is responsible for implementing a public procurement monitoring and accountability mechanism by engaging citizen groups as a third party in the public procurement system. This will include selecting an implementing partner in the field level and to build their capacity in public procurement issues so that this agency can ensure TPM engagement in the procurement system at the local level.



(From left to right) Mr. Md. Faruque Hossain, Mr. Zafrul Islam, Mr. Md. Shahid Ullah Khandaker, Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman & Mr. Rafiqul Islam Talukdar at the signing ceremony

Mr. Md. Shahid Ullah Khandaker, Secretary of IMED; Mr. Md. Faruque Hossain, Director General of CPTU; Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, Executive Director of BIGD and Ms. Parveen Akther, Director of CPTU were present during the ceremony. Dr. Zafrul Islam, Lead Procurement Specialist, The World Bank; Mr. Md. Nasimur Rahman Sharif, Deputy Director and Mr. Shafiul Alam, Communication and Social Awareness Consultant, both from CPTU; Md. Rafiqul Islam Talukdar and Ms. Kaneta Zillur from BIGD were also present at the signing ceremony.

PPRP-II is being implemented to ensure sustainability of the procurement reform programme. CPTU/IMED is the key implementing agency for the project while the sectoral target agencies are responsible for implementation of procurement management and monitoring actions at the agency level. The objective of the Second Public Procurement Reform Project in Bangladesh is to improve performance of the public procurement system progressively in Bangladesh, focusing largely on the key sectoral ministries and targeting their implementing agencies.

Activities of Researchers

Dr. Minhaj presented paper at the World Meetings of Economic Science Association

Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Head of Research, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University, presented a paper titled "Natural disaster and risk sharing behavior: Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh" at the World Meetings of Economic Science Association (ESA) held at University of Technology, Sydney on 23-25 July, 2015.

The Economics Discipline Group and the Centre for Policy and Market Design (CPMD) at the University of Technology Sydney organized the World Meetings of the Economic Science Association. The ESA meetings took place on July 24 and 25, preceded by a reception in the late afternoon of July 23. There was also a two-day market-design workshop organized by the CPMD on July

22 and 23 that ends at the time of the reception. This workshop was open to everyone attending the ESA conference.

The Centre for Policy and Market Design at the University of Technology Sydney was established in July 2014. It is an innovative hub for research, teaching, networking, and practical advice. Members from various disciplines within the Business School combine their different backgrounds and expertise in a single centre to facilitate synergistic research collaborations, broaden the fields of research and expertise, and attract attention and funding from external organizations including businesses, policy makers, and governmental agencies.

Dr. Minhaj presented Paper at Workshop on Poor Economics in Tokyo: Frontiers of Development Economics

Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, the Head of Research of BIGD, presented a paper titled 'Infrastructure and Well-being: Employment Effects of Jamuna Bridge in Bangladesh' at the Workshop on Poor Economics in Tokyo: Frontiers of Development Economics on August 3rd, 2015 at the Economic Research Building, University of Tokyo, Japan. The paper was prepared jointly by Dr. Minhaj Mahmud and Yasuyuki Sawada, Professor of Economics, University of Tokyo. The ultimate goal of the workshop was to improve the research capacity of participants, thereby contributing to pushing forward the frontier of development studies in Japan. Another aim was to contribute to expanding the domestic and international network of researchers in this field.

The paper evaluates the impact of the Jamuna

multipurpose bridge, the largest physical infrastructure in Bangladesh, on employment opportunities. The authors particularly focused on labour market integration effects using survey data that provides information on current and retrospective assessments of household situation in two adjacent districts connected by the bridge. Using a quasi-experimental framework of the canonical difference-in-difference regression methodology, they analysed the impact of this infrastructure on employment and job transition patterns. The research found that, along with decreasing household unemployment, the bridge construction facilitated farm to non-farm shift of employments. Also the treatment effects are heterogeneous across age, gender and education level.

Dr. Sohela's Lecture at the Asiatic Society

Dr. Sohela Nazneen, Adjunct Fellow of BIGD delivered a lecture on 'Negotiating Gender Equity in Bangladesh: The Case of Domestic Violence Act 2010' at the 18th Monthly General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh on 22nd August 2015 at the auditorium of Asiatic Society Bangladesh. She presented the emerging findings from the Bangladesh part of the research on

Gender and Political Settlement with the Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID) Research Center, University of Manchester, UK. Dr. Nazneen also focused on what drives gender equity in Bangladesh, specifically looking at the domestic violence Act of 2010, in her speech.

Dr. Sohela Participated the International Conference on Gender Relations and Rising Inequalities

Dr. Sohela Nazneen, Adjunct Fellow of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University, Chaired and presented paper at the University of East Anglia's (UEA) Gender conference titled 'Gender Relations and Rising Inequalities' on July 6-8, 2015 in UK. The International Conference aimed to bring together gender analysts, researchers and research scholars for a sustained consideration of changing gender relations in contexts of rising inequality, and to stimulate new ways of thinking about gender relations. Dr. Nazneen chaired the first session where

presentations were made by Prof. Sam Hickey, University of Manchester on gender and political settlements and what are the gaps on existing feminist theory; Prof. Georgina Waylen, University of Manchester on informal institutions; and shifting global norms on violence against women by Dr. Sohie King, University of Manchester.

Dr. Nazneen presented her paper in the second session on "What drives gender equity in Bangladesh: the case of Domestic Violence act"

BIGD Research Fellow Attended workshops Roundtables

Dr. Shanawez Hossain, Research Fellow of BIGD attended several workshops and roundtables on different burning issues related to governance and economics as a representative of BIGD.

Dr. Shanawez Hossain attended the workshop on midterm review of Bangladesh country diagnostic study by Asian Development Bank's Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD), held at the Westin Hotel, Dhaka on 30th August 2015. The country diagnostic study aims to analyse the critical constraints to sustained and inclusive growth in Bangladesh. The workshop was jointly organised by ADB and International Labour Organization (ILO).

Dr. Hossain also attended the discussion workshop on World Bank's Bangladesh Public Expenditure Review Update held on 25th August, 2015 at the World Bank Office, Dhaka. The purpose of the workshop was to present the report's main result to eminent public officials, economists, researchers and observers of the Bangladesh economy and receive feedback on the main policy implications for fiscal policy in Bangladesh. Among others Mr. Johan Zutt, Country Director, The World Bank, Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, Former Adviser to the Caretaker Government; Dr. Zahid Hussain, Lead Economist, WB; Dr. Ahsan H. Mansur, Executive Director, Policy Research Institute also attended the workshop

Dr. Sultan Hafeez attended the IGC Leadership Retreat in London

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD and Country Director of International Growth Centre (IGC)-Bangladesh, attended the IGC Leadership Retreat at the London School of Economics and Political Science in London on 21-22 September, 2015. The retreat was attended by the leaders of the IGC's 15 programmes in 14 partner countries throughout Africa (Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) and South Asia (Bangladesh, India (Bihar), India (Central), Myanmar and Pakistan) and had lively thematic discussions.

The leaders had discussion on "How IGC can advance its research agendas and enhance its policy impact in each of its four areas", "Closer look at the IGC's strengths and weaknesses as an organisation", and "Short-term priorities for improving IGC's effectiveness, before shifting to thinking about IGC's ambitions for the future". The aims of the retreat were to ensure alignment on IGC priorities and plans for rest of Phase II, identify concrete steps to enhance IGC's impact and effectiveness and initiate strategy for Phase III and the future of the IGC.

While the discussions were wide-ranging, there was a broad consensus on the need to attract more high quality researchers and research proposals as a top priority. A number of creative solutions were discussed as were several hub initiatives already under way. There was also agreement on the need to improve IGC's operational efficiency and effectiveness in a number of areas and to increase its impact on policy debates in the partner countries and in relevant regional and international forums. On these issues and others, a concerted effort was made to identify concrete action points.

The IGC operated Country offices allow the IGC to be distinctive among international research initiatives in sustaining long-term policy engagement, and helping to ensure IGC's work can be demand-led; they facilitate its work with partners, and deepen sensitivity to the political economy of policymaking.

BIGD's ED attended a Seminar as Panelist on Contribution of Microfinance to GDP

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD attended as a distinguished Panelist at the Special Seminar titled Contribution of Microfinance to GDP in Bangladesh organised by Institute of Microfinance (InM) held on September 14, 2015 at the Media Bazar, Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC), Dhaka. Dr. Selim Raihan, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka and Executive Director, South Asian Network on

Economic Modeling (SANEM) presented the Keynote paper at the seminar. Mr. M. A. Mannan, MP, Honorable State Minister of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, attended the event as the Chief Guest where Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member, General Economic Division, Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning and Dr. M. Aslam Alam, Secretary (Banking), Ministry of Finance, GoB were also present as the Guests of Honour.

ED's Meeting with Distinguished Personalities

Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD, held several meetings in the third quarter of 2015 with a number of distinguished personalities such as prominent academics and researchers regarding the research collaboration and other relevant issues.

Among others, Dr. Rahman had meeting with Dr. Mushtauqe Khan, Professor of Economics, SOAS, University of London, and Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Advisor to the Chairperson of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP); Professor Farid Uddin Ahmed, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Dhaka, Pauline Tamesis, UNDP Country Director; Dr. Tayabur Rahman of Planning Ministry; and Jaap M. de Heer, Netherlands regarding Developing Research proposal and Research collaboration; Professor Fahad Khalil, University of Washington, USA; and Dr. Monzur -ul- Amin Chowdhury, President, Forum for Peoples Voice, Chittagong regarding Advocacy work; Dr. Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Vice Chairperson, BRAC; Ms. Ismat Shereen, Head, Relationship Management Office, BRACU, CIPS delegation from UK; Ms. Paula Steele, Global Sector Manager, CIPS and Mr. Howard Selden, International Development Consultant, MCIPS; USAID Acting Mission

Director Paul Sabatine; Ms. Silmat Chisti and Dr. Hasan, Yale alumni; Professor Siddiq Osmani; Dr. Atiur Rahman Governor, Bangladesh Bank; Prof David Hulme of The University of Manchester; Mr. Nanda Dulal Saha, Director, Internal Audit, BRAC; Martein Van Asseldonk, MDF Asia; Dr. Rizwan Khair, Director, BPATC; Dr. Selim Raihan, Professor of Economics, University of Dhaka and Executive Director, SANEM; Professor Fahad Kalil, Department of Economics, University of Washington and Mr. Norbert von Hofmann, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Bangladesh Office; Mr. Anup Roy Associate Director, Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) regarding ESRC-DFID proposal and Mr. Samar Varma of IDRC regarding BIGD and Ambassador Liaquat Ali Choudhury, regarding the flagship Research Report of BIGD titled 'State of Governance in Bangladesh 2014-15'.

Dr. Rahman also met with Anindya Chatterjee, Regional Director, IDRC and had a Working Lunch. Dr. Rahman also attended the IGC Leadership Retreat, South Asia Growth Conference and Growth Week 2016 in London as well as the Country Review meeting (CRM) of UK-IGC.

Publications By BIGD Staff

1. The Daily Star: Reflection on Bangladesh's democratic governance by Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Institutional Advisor, and Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, Research Associate of BIGD, BRAC University on 30 July, 2015
 2. The Daily Star: Interview of Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, on connectivity titled "THE POWER OF CONNECTING THE DOTS" on 4 July 5, 2015
 3. The Daily Star: The "sorrow of Chittagong City" by S M Gubair Bin Arafat, Research Associate, BIGD, BRAC University on July 1, 2015
 4. The Daily Star: Democracy in party constitutions by Harun Or Rashid, Research Associate, BIGD, BRAC University on September 30, 2015
 5. Bonik Barta: রাষ্ট্রীয় ক্ষমতা ও কার্যের ভারসাম্য: স্বশাসন ও সুশাসনের জন্য বিকেন্দ্রীকরণ by Dr. Tofail Ahmed on 21 September, 2015
 6. Bonik Barta: স্বশাসন ও সুশাসনের জন্য প্রয়োজন বিকেন্দ্রীকরণ by Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Honorary Visiting Fellow, BIGD, BRAC University on 22 September, 2015
 7. New Age: MP'S ROLE IN UPAZILA PARISHADS: A deterrent to decentralisation by Nazneen Ahmed, Programme Officer, Local Governance Programme-Sharique, BIGD, BRAC University on September 3, 2015
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