

2009/february

Fourth Convocation of BRAC University

BRAC University fourth convocation was held on Thursday, February 5, 2009 in BRAC's majestic complex at Rajendrapur. It is popularly known as BCDM (BRAC Centre for Development Management) which comprises a cluster of auditoriums, halls built around well manicured lawns with water sprouting out of fountains from artificially built lakes. It was a proud moment which calls for celebration not only for the graduates but also their parents, the faculty and the staff of the university, who all contributed in making the institution a vibrant one.

A mood of excitement and festivity prevailed throughout the occasion. Students expressed their feelings by saying that it was a great thing to be a graduate, but at the same time, they felt that they would miss their campus where they had spent four precious years of their lives and had made so many memories and several close friends. The experience they gained would linger in their minds for as long as they live.

"The BRAC University, an innovative step of the world's biggest NGO BRAC, is now known to all for its quality education," said renowned academic and historian Professor AF Salahuddin Ahmed while speaking as chief guest.

BRAC University President and BRAC Founder Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed said the BRAC University will create country's future leadership through providing quality education.

BRAC University Vice-chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Choudury said, "We started our university eight years ago. Meanwhile, the number of students has reached 3000 due to its quality education."

A total of 553 students got the certificates at the convocation. Of them, 362 received undergraduate and the rest post graduate certificates.

BRACU Students received certificates at Harvard Project 2009, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Continuing its tradition of academic excellence, the HPAIR Harvard Conference seeks to create a rigorous forum for dialogue and exchange. Covering topics spanning development, globalization, public health, international relations, and cultural transformations, the Harvard Conference 2009 invited both outstanding foreign delegates and Harvard Professors & students to engage in thoughtful plenary sessions and panels regarding critical issues affecting Asia and the world today. Drawing from a competitive pool of international applicants, Sadia Naureen Huq, Sabbir Hossain Chowdhury, Shamminaz Polen and Iftekhar Ul Karim (Rizvi), undergraduate students at BRAC Business School, BRAC University negotiated and performed at this 2nd Annual Harvard Conference 2009 from 19-22 February, 2009 at Harvard University, Boston. Marking the International Mother Language Day, BRACU students also presented a documentary on Bangladesh at the 21st February night on the Harvard premises. During the closing gala dinner at Boston Marriott Hotel (adjacent to MIT), BRACU students received certificates for their delegation. BRAC Bank Ltd. sponsored the entire Harvard tour with due dignity.

ARC Update

Prof. Fuad H Mallick attends Workshop and Conference in N. Delhi

Prof Fuad H Mallick attended the 2nd workshop of the Asian University Network of Environment and Disaster Management: Focusing on Higher Education on Disaster Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation held in New Delhi on 23rd February. He presented the agenda for the educational activities of the network to representatives of the 17 universities and institutions that are its members.

He also attended the ACT AHEAD - IV: International Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction: Investment for a Safer Future and was a panel member on the issues of climate change adaptation.

Prof. Fuad H Mallick is Vice President of the Asian University Network of Environment and

Disaster Management (AUEDM)

Prof. Fuad H Mallick has been elected Vice President (Education) of AUEDM. Professor Tsuneo Katayama (IAEE President, and Professor, Tokyo Denki University) is the Honorary President and Dr. Joy Jacqueline Pereira a Professor of the National University of Malaysia is Vice President (Research). As Vice President he is also a member of the management board of AUEDM.

Prof. Mallick is also a member of the editorial board of the soon to be launched Asian Journal of Environment and Disaster and published by Research Publishing of Singapore

Faculty members present in international conference

Huraera Jabeen, Senior Lecturer presented a paper in the "Third International Conference on Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change" in 23rd February 2009. The event was organized by the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and RING Alliance. The main objective of the conference was to share the latest developments in adaptation planning and practices, priority sectors and measures at different levels. Also bring different stakeholders and practitioners to share and discuss knowledge of Community Based Adaptation (CBA) planning and practices from different parts of the developing world and capture the latest experiences and learning to enhance capacity of the practitioners to help the most vulnerable groups and people in improving livelihoods. Her paper "Urban Poverty, Adaptation to Climate Change and the Built Environment" highlighted the issues related to built environment both in building and urban scale in the context of climate change and climate variability in Bangladesh. It also included adaptation measures taken by the communities sharing from her research work to give direction for the future policy level initiatives and ways to mainstream informal settlements through provision of infrastructure, services and security of tenure.

Sajid-Bin-Doza, Lecturer II presented a paper in the International Heritage Conference-2009, jointly organized by Asiatic Society of Bangladesh and Bangladesh ITTIHASH Academy. One day international conference was held on February 20, 2009. Eminent Personality Professor Dr. Najrul Islam, Chairman of University Grant Commission of Bangladesh inaugurated the ceremony. Prominent Historian, researcher and professional from India participate and presented their papers. The title of Mr. Doza's paper was 'AKHILA Jami Mosque: A religious architecture with indigenous meaning'. Basically 'AKHILA Jami Masjid'- is a two storied mud built architecture which is the combination of philosophical utter, formal expression and meaning, spatial fact and space relationship, context and familiar notion. The paper focused on the morphology of the religious architecture, the chronological growth evolving local trends of religious architecture, the course of construction, and the components of Akhila mosque. This research addressed the climatic consideration and responsive architectural phenomenon, which is integrated with the socio-cultural spatial profile.

CfL Update

1st CfL Weekend Observed in Savar Campus

Centre for Languages (CfL) of BRAC University leads the extracurricular and co-curricular activities for students in BU Residential Campus in Savar. Throughout the semester, the CfL faculty members facilitate and supervise various activities which equip the students with creative skills. Moreover, three weekends in each semester are exclusively allotted for CfL activities.

The 1st CfL Weekend of Spring 09 was observed in Savar Campus on February 14, 2009. The activities in which students were enthusiastically involved were Creative Writing Workshop, Debate, Quiz Competition, Table Lamp Making, Jewelry Box Making, Tie & Dye, Pencil Sketching, T-Shirt Painting, Bamboo Candle Stand Making, and Sports.

A Treasure Hunt, organised by CfL Faculty Members Sunida Witayakarn and Nisha Alam with the aim of Language and Logical Learning with fun, added special attraction to this weekend programs. The participants of Treasure Hunt ventured out around the campus, found the right Key-holders, collected clues, and solved riddles. The riddles were both intellectually and linguistically challenging for the students. The winning team received the Treasure, and the fun and excitement were equally shared with all the participants.

CfL Faculty Members' Publications

CfL Coordinator Sheikh Fazle Shams's essay entitled "Subversive Images of Women in Medieval English Literature: A Selective Reading" and CfL Instructor Sadia Nasrin's paper entitled "First Language Acquisition: Grammar in the Speech of a Two-Year Old Bangladeshi Child" have been accepted for publication in BRAC University Journal, Volume V, No. 2, 2008.

CfL Faculty Members' Paper Presentations

CfL faculty members S. M. Anwaruddin's paper entitled "Rise of Social Networking Websites and Its Effects on Learning EFL" and Sanjoy Banerjee's paper entitled "Developing Writing Skills Through Service Learning: Bangladesh Perspective" have been accepted to be presented in the 8th International Language and Development Conference organized by The British Council, Dhaka from 23 - 25 June, 2009.

ENH Update

Eng 115 Study Trip to Ekushey Boi Mela

On 7th February, the students of Eng 115: Introduction to Prose went on a study trip to the Ekushey Boi Mela. The students were introduced to one of the largest literary and book selling events in the country as well as the spirit of the language movement. As part of the Eng 115 course, the students were given assignments on their visit. The students were accompanied by Ms. Sohana Manzoor, Senior Lecturer, ENH, and Teaching Assistants Sonia Afrin and Tamanna Mustafa.

Guest Lecture in Eng 440

On 16th February, Mr. Hussain Imam, Associate Editor, The Daily Star, gave a guest lecture for students of Eng 440: English for the Print Media about different forms of journalistic writing, such as editorials, op-eds, features, sports journalism, etc. This was followed by a Q&A session with the students. The guest lecture was coordinated by the course teacher, Ms. Roohi Huda, Lecturer, ENH.

Eng 440 Study Trip to Chobi Mela

On 19th February, the students of Eng 440: English for the Print Media went on a study trip to the Chobi Mela photo exhibition titled "Kaloteep" by Shah Sazzad held at the Charukala premises. The study trip was part of the coursework on event coverage for Eng 440, and coordinated by the course teacher, Ms. Roohi Huda, Lecturer, ENH.

Eng 439 Study Trip

On 19th February, the students of Eng 439: Teaching Practicum went to Happy Times International School in Dhanmondi for classroom observation. The course focuses on the techniques and methods of language teaching in the classroom, so this trip allowed students to observe these methods in practice. As part of their coursework, the students will be required to write an observation report based on the visit. The study trip was coordinated by the course teacher Ms. Asifa Sultana, Lecturer, ENH.

ESS Update

Helping Group for Bangladesh Studies

Bangladesh Studies (DEV 101) course has launched Helping Group for the students of Residential Campus on the 24th of February, 2009. The purpose of Helping Group is to assist students taking preparation for midterm examination. This group has been organizing sessions in every evening from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the faculty room of residential campus. Students and teaching assistants of Bangladesh Studies course have been conducting sessions of helping group. Such initiative is very helpful for the students and it is appreciated by them. The course coordinator of DEV 101 supervises the sessions of Helping Group.

Seminar Participation by Dr. Manzur Karim

Dr. Manzur Karim, Associate Professor, ESS, was a discussant in the seminar titled Aktaruzzaman Elias's Chilekothar Sepai: A Manifesto of the Political Struggle of the Masses organized by the Department of English, East West University on March 03, 2009. The seminar was organized to celebrate Elias's 66th birth anniversary.

Faculty Participation in BRAC DEV-PRO

Iftexharul Haque, Lecturer, ESS, had taken classes in the Certificate Course on Development Professionals Program (Dev-Pro), on March 01 & 02, 2009, at BRAC-TARC, Gulshan, Dhaka. The training program was

organized by the Training Division, BRAC and BRAC University for the mid-level managers of BRAC. Mr. Haque gave lecture on the basic concepts of Economics and on the Economy of Bangladesh.

Students of Bangladesh Studies visited Liberation War Museum and CRP Visits

On February 07, 2009, a total of 67 students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) visited Liberation War Museum and Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), Savar, as part of their academic activities. Department of ESS organized the visits for the students of Bangladesh Studies. Students were informed about the history and culture of Bangladesh as well as the various activities and programs of CRP for physically disabled people. Coordinator of Bangladesh Studies, faculty members of ESS and house tutors of TARC, Savar accompanied the students.

SPH Update

MPH Programme

The course "Introduction to Public Health" began on February 15 and was completed on February 26, 2009. Dr. Alayne Adams, Dr. Richard Cash and Dr. Nasima Selim taught the course. Dr. Taufique Joarder was the teaching assistant for the course.

Other Courses

Quality Management in Health Systems

A sensitization seminar under the Quality Management in Health Systems course was held for the policy makers on 28 February, 2009 at the James P. Grant conference room. Dr. Anwar Islam, Professor & Director, BSPH, and Sylvia Sax from University of Heidelberg, Germany conducted the course and it was attended by public and private mid level managers.

Events

MOU signed with University of Heidelberg

The James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh and the Department of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health, Heidelberg University Medical School, Heidelberg, Germany, share the same mission of enhancing public health through capacity building; graduate and post graduate education; generation, dissemination and promoting the utilization of knowledge through research and improve service delivery. JPGSPH and University of Heidelberg signed a MOU on the 23rd of February, 2009. This Memorandum of Understanding is to further expand, formalize and institutionalize the growing collaboration between these two institutions in pursuit of their shared vision of strengthening public health and health systems through education, research, capacity building and advocacy.

Training on HIV/AIDS issues, Management and Monitoring & Evaluation under GFATM 913

The 4th batch of three week long training on HIV/AIDS related issues, Monitoring and Evaluation was organized from January 18 to February 5, 2009 by BRAC School of Public Health in collaboration with NIPSOM, Population Council, PIACT Bangladesh and CWFD with support from National AIDS/STD Program (NASP) and Save the Children USA under GFATAM Package 913. The course was held at BRAC Training and Research Center (TARC), Gulshan-1 Dhaka.

The goal of the training was to contribute to the better management and implementation of extensive HIV/AIDS prevention program in the field level through developing the capacity of the mid level managers. The specific objective was to increase the knowledge and develop skills of the participants on HIV/AIDS related issues, management and monitoring & evaluation. The participants for this training course were drawn mostly from the government departments/offices; from the office of the Civil Surgeons and non-government organizations (NGOs). A total of thirty two participants attended the course.

Professor Rainer Sauerborn visits BSPH

Professor Rainer Sauerborn, Director of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health, University of Heidelberg, Germany and Malabika Sarker visited JPGSPH on 22nd February to meet the staff of the School and on the 23rd he went to the Savar campus to meet with the students.

Faculty News

New Staff

Dr. Ariful Bari did his bachelor on Medicine and Surgery from BMSRI. During his study, he worked closely

with the HIV/AIDS Education Program and was awarded "Commonwealth Youth Ambassador Scholarship" to participate and train internationally on various HIV/AIDS program. He has also worked as Drug Research Education Officer (DRE) for Dhaka Children Hospital. Then he moved to Australia to work for GSK (GlaxoSmithKline) as Clinical Research Assistant. These experiences led him to pursue his career in public health. He finished his post-graduation in Public Health from Curtin University of Technology and majored in Quality Management in Health System, Health Promotion, Infectious Disease, Nutrition and some other elective subjects. Before joining BRAC, he worked as a Clinical Research Associate for Nucleus Network Australia in Melbourne, Australia. Ever since his undergraduate days, he showed keen interest in environmental health, quality management and public health nutrition.

Interns join JPGSPH

Elizabeth Lee is an MPH student with the Department of Global Health at The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services in Washington, DC. She will be interning with BSPH for a period of four months during the spring of 2009. Elizabeth is interested in program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation as it relates to prevention and control of infectious diseases, as well as advocacy efforts aimed at bolstering such activities. She looks forward to an exciting and rewarding learning experience at JPGSPH.

Naveen J. S. Khan graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2007 with a BA in Anthropology, emphasizing on cultural studies and evolutionary psychology. She joined the School in February 2009 under SPH's Communications Department. She is currently working on creating literature for the upcoming Workshop on Gender and Sexuality Rights in March 2009 as well as SPH's Annual Report for 2008. Before joining, she worked as Grants Manager and Production Assistant for the Los Angeles-based non-profit ArtWallah, which focused on the advancement and promotion of South Asian diasporic artists, musicians, filmmakers, and performers.

Fairuz Faatin completed her A-levels from Mastermind School in 2007. She is enrolled in Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York where she intends to major in Economics. Currently, she is taking a semester off and is doing an internship at JPGSPH.

Faculty Activities

Dr. Shahaduz Zaman, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the MPH attended the 'Regional Consultation on Social Determinants of Health: Addressing the Health Inequities' held in Colombo, Sri Lanka during 18-20 February'09.

Dr. Anwar Islam visited the University of Nagasaki, Japan from 14th to 18th February, 2009. The purpose of his visit was to follow up on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two universities. Dr. Islam was invited to be a member of the International Advisory Board of the Graduate School of International Health Development (GSIHD) and to attend the meeting of the Board. During his visit, he met with the Dean of the GSIHD, the Chair and the faculty. He also met with the President of the University of Nagasaki, the Vice President in charge of policy planning and the Director and Deputy Director of the Center for International Collaborative Research. It was agreed that there would be greater exchange of students between the James P Grant School of Public Health and the Graduate School of International Health Development. In that context, four students will come to JPGSPH for a period of eight months in April 2009 for their thesis followed by another batch of eleven students in the summer for six weeks. There was agreement that the schools will explore opportunities for joint appointment of senior faculty and further exchange of students, faculty and research.

Dr. Anwar Islam's editorial "The ODA hoopla" and "Foreign aid and end of poverty: mutually exclusive?" was published in the New Age on 17th February and 28th February 2009, respectively.

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid Associate Professor and Coordinator, Centre for Gender Sexuality and HIV/AIDS and Bangladesh Health Watch, was invited to teach a module on Reproductive and Sexual and Rights in Developing Countries for the Master Study Program 'Health and Society: International Gender Studies' Berlin, Campus Virchow-Klinikum, Berlin, Germany. This is her third year teaching in this program.

Dr. Hilary Standing was a member of the organizing committee of the 12th Annual Scientific conference of ICDDRDB on Health Systems, held in Dhaka from 10-12 February. She gave a plenary keynote address on

Future Scenarios for Health Service Delivery. She met with Dr Atef El Maghraby, of UNFPA Bangladesh, who requested support and information on demand side financing initiatives for maternal health.

Nasima Selim, Lecturer, BSPH, taught ARC 522: Research Methods course for undergraduate architecture students of BRAC University.

RS Update

Cultural Program

The Savar Campus experienced three beautiful, enjoyable and amusing cultural evening organized and participated by the students on February 3, 10, and 17. The audience enjoyed music, dance, fashion show and drama.

Sports

Handball: Girls

The inter-dorm handball competition was held between Surjomukhi & Surjalok Dorms on February 6. Surjomukhi won by 5-2 goals defeating Surjalok. On the other hand, on February 13, Surjomukhi won by 7-2 goals defeating Surjalok.

Cricket: Boys

The inter-dorm cricket competition was held on February 6, between Chhayaneer and Krishnochura dorms. Chhayaneer won the toss, decided to bat first. won by 30 runs. On the other hand, on February 13, second cricket match was held between Chhayaneer and Krishnochura dorm and Chhayaneer won by 3 wickets.

1st CfL Weekend

On February 14, 2009, the first CfL weekend activities were held. The CfL faculties led the co-curricular activities for the students at the Savar Residential Campus. The activities included table lamp painting, T-shirt painting, block printing, jewelry box making, bamboo candle stand making, creative writing, quiz, debate, treasure hunt game etc. Besides their academic courses students actively took part in these co-curricular activities.

RS Day

The RS Day of the semester was held on February 21, 2009. Bhashasainik Abdul Matin was the Guest of Honor. In a session at Murchana the semester secretary received the guest of honour by a welcome speech. The guest delivered a speech on the history of language movement of 1952 and described how he experienced and worked in the movement. After the speech of the guest of honour, Mahfuzul Bari Choudhury, the campus super, concluded the session by thanking the guest and others. Tamanna, a student of BBA, facilitated the session. After this session a cultural show was conducted by the students where they presented songs on language movement, dance, and drama. A dinner party followed the show.

Poster Exhibition

A poster exhibition was held at Murchana on February 23-24 as a class-activity of the course of Ethics and Culture. Each student of all four sections of Ethics made a poster where he showed what virtues he already possesses and what virtues he want to achieve in future.

BUECC Activities

"Reflection" - General Body Meeting

To start the semester with, BRAC University Electronics and Communication Club (BUECC) has launched its first gadget "Handsensor" in the Spring-09 club fair held within the BRACU premises. Hard to believe but such innovation came out from 5 talented ECE students who have just started to pave their way along this university. With having such a good start in the record, on 8th February in AH203 the club called out its first GBM with the name "Reflection". To give "Reflection" a convivial start, for the first time there was an interactive interview session with each and every new fresher who joined the club through the club fair. Unlike a typical interview, it provoked them to bring out their ideas that they would like to see in action and also their expectations. The meeting consisted of students from junior levels to seniors to as far level as the advisors. Soon after the interview session, some of the executive members presented a small presentation that contained the detail update of all the upcoming events that BUECC plans to carry out for Spring -

09. These updates were about upcoming seminars, quiz competition-Talentfest, technology based movie show, upcoming newsletter and few industrial tours that BUECC is willing to organize for its members. During the discussion, the existing members gave in their suggestions about how they want the events to be done. On the whole it was a very informative and enlightening session and a good rendezvous for its members.

Round Table Discussion on Electronic and Communication Engineering Sector:

To keep the students motivated, BUECC along with BRAC University Career Service Office (CSO) organized a round table discussion on 23rd February 2009. The purpose was to inspire the graduating students from the program of Electronics and Communication Engineers, under the Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) Department, towards their goal. The table had few guest speakers. The guests included Mr. Tahsinur Rashid Khan, the very inspiring General Manager of field operation and transmission of CITYCELL, Mr. Nurul Aktar- the highly experienced CEO and director of Energypac Electronics Ltd and Mr. Md Rezaul Kabir- the young talented COO of Novotel. As an opening, a small presentation was prearranged on the student's perspective of the talked about Department. It was followed by a briefing on the Department by Head of CSE, Dr. Sayed Salam, which helped to accustom the guests with the students and the environment over there. After that, the discussion began on the career opportunities prevailing in Bangladesh and the prospect of ECE in it. The guests shared their personal experiences from each of their field that they are working on. In the flow, they depicted the in depth view of job process, starting from interviews, what are being expected of the graduates, the type of CV they seek for and all other nutty gritty details that are needed for getting into a job. The anticipated students eagerly asked a lot of questions that were patiently answered by the speakers. Overall the discussion opened a new horizon and gave the students a very close and inspiring view of the world they are about to step into. This whole session no doubt boosted the hopes and self-confidence of the participating audiences and together they felt "They can because they can"!

So all in all, the month of February for BUECC member-whether a fresher or a graduating ECE student- had been eventful. For BUECC it was a good start for the year and also for the semester. Hope upcoming month will be equally or even more inspiring!

Career Services Update

New Employees

Two new employees joined in CSO from January 05, 2009. Faria Rafiq has joined as career service officer. She did her Bachelor Degree from BRAC University major in Finance and Human Resource Management. She has been a active member of AIESEC and involved in various co-curricular activities. Md. Shorab Hossain has joined as an Assistant Admin Officer. He also completed his Bachelor Degree from BRAC University. His degree concentration was on marketing and human resource management. He played football and cricket in the BRAC University team.

Events

Career Services has successfully conducted a seminar on "Career in Electronics and Communication Sectors". Three guest speakers were present at the session and conveyed their views on required skills in the current job market. Present speakers were Mr. Tahsinur Rashid Khan, General Manager, Field Operations & Transmission (CITY CELL), Mr. Md. Rezaul Kabir, COO (Novotel), Mr. Md. Nurul Aktar, CEO and Director (Energypac Electronics Ltd.). Four lecturers were present and a number of 45 students have participated in the seminar. The seminar concluded with an interactive question answer session, and students have got real life feedback from the guest speakers. The session started at 2:45 and finished at 5:00pm at BRAC Center Auditorium. The seminar was specially designed for our student with ECE major. Prof. Sayeed Salam and BRAC University Electronics and Communication Club have given immense support to Career Services to make this event a success.

Job Placement:

January 2009 Company Name
Muhammad Abdul Hakim Shaon Unilever Bangladesh
Mahmud Un Nabi Mithu Renaissance Consultants
Faria Rafiq BRAC University
Md. Shorab Hossain BRAC University
Md. Shamuil Islam Jobs ICT-Ltd.

Emu Sharmin Warid Telecom Ltd.

February:
Nadia Saleh BRAC
Rajib Kumar Chanda Citycell
Chowdhury Saifuddin Haider Citycell
Abdullah Al Mahmud Right Brain Solutions.
Md. Kamruzzaman BRAC University
Student Affairs

Global Affairs Forum of BRAC University

Apon Bhashai Alokito Manusher Golpo

February - the month of remembrance. Every year on this month, various television programs, commercial advertisements, talk shows, etc, remind us about the sacrifices that our brothers, Salam, Rafiq, Jabbar, Shafiur, and Barqat, made for our most beloved language- Bangla. To honor these martyrs, we observe "Shaheed Dibosh" on 21st February. This day is now recognized internationally as the "International Mother's Language Day." As a Bangali, this is something to be very pleased about. Nevertheless, the question still remains - did these great men give their lives to see Bangladesh at a state in which it is right now?

If one sits down and thinks about the various problems in Bangladesh, the list would be quite lengthy. However, it would be unfair to judge Bangladesh for only its problem. Just as a coin has two sides, Bangladesh, along with all its tribulations, has several good aspects. One of these good aspects is the few good people, who work everyday for the betterment of the nation. We traditionally like to call them "Alokito Manush" which means "The Enlightened Ones."

When listening to the stories of the language movement and the 1971 war, it is quite difficult to relate the patriotic feelings those generations shared with our generation. After all, how many of us can sacrifice so easily for our nation? Maybe there are not many, but there are still some people who are willing to do so. On the occasion of Shaheed Dibosh, the Global Affairs Forum of BRAC University (GAFBU) wished to remind the students of such people.

On the 22nd of February 2009, GAFBU organized a seminar which took place at BRAC University at Mohakhali in BRAC University Indoor Games Room. The chief guest for this event was Prof. Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Chairman, Bisso Sahitto Kendro and the special guest was Anisul Haque, Assistant Editor, Daily Prothom-Alo. The event was chaired by Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Vice- Chancellor, BRAC University.

The main purpose of the event was to listen to the life stories of these two individuals who have made their marks in the hearts of various people. In amongst all the problems, sometimes people lose hope in themselves. It is hard to believe that anything good can be done. This event was organized to inspire the students who are uncertain about a bright future, and to make them believe that if we curve the life path of our life properly, something good can be achieved. Something good still can be done for the country which does not include giving up our lives, but simply by changing certain habits. Prof. Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Mr. Anisul Haque both of them believe the same.

BRAC University Film Club (BUFC)

At the start of the semester, BRAC University Film Club went to its second annual tour to Bandarban on 13th January till 16th January. In the trip, BUFC visited Shoilopropat, Chimbuk, Nilgiri, Rumabazar, Boga Lake and Keokaradong. On occasion of the club fair "Britter Baire" (organized by BUDTF); BUFC screened two movies on 29th January. The movies were "Ghajini" and "Transporter 3." On February 7, BUFC organized its 4th INTROview. The new members were interviewed to determine their determination for the club and willingness to work. Alongside there were introduction and fun filled sessions.

BUFC organized its 2nd Kothopokothon on 18th February. This time, BUFC invited Gias Uddin Selim, the director of the much awaited Bangla film "Monpura" that was released only 5 days prior to the event, to spend an evening with the students and faculties to share his experiences and inspirations.

Besides these, BUFC also organized three regular movie shows. They screened "Slumdog Millionaire", the recent wonder in the world of films on 26th January, "Stardust" on 16th February and "Aaguner Poroshmoni" on 23rd February on occasion of International Mother Language Day.

In between, there were several meetings with the advisors and the executive body members for event planning and to keep the club at full pace.

BRAC University Drama & Theater Forum (BUDTF)

BUDTF has organized the Club fair of spring-09 "Britter Baire" on 29th January 2009. This club fair was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury at 10.30 a.m. Most of the clubs and forums of BRAC University were present on this event with their decorated stalls to attract the fresher's and old students as well. Most of the fresher's had interest in BUDTF, BUFC and BUCuC clubs. Stalls were open till 1.00 p.m. At 2.30 p.m. BUDTF performed a theme show called "Shadhinota". Later BUCuC organized a cultural program and that was the end of day one. In day two of club fair BUFC showed two movies in the Indoor Games Room and that was the end of day two and the club fair of spring-09 as well which organized by BUDTF and appreciated by all the students.

On February 11, 2009 BUDTF invited all the fresher's who signed up in the club fair of spring-09 for an orientation program. We met with them and tried to encourage them to keep themselves involve with us and also introduced ourselves and our club to them. After all it was a great time with them and they enjoyed it as well.

It's really honor for our club that 3 of our Executive Body members recently performed in SAUFEST-2009. Which was held in Punjab University, Chandigarh, India from 12th February 2009 to 16th February 2009. And our Team got two awards as well. It's a big achievement of BUDTF.

BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC)

Project for Computer Game Development

A foreign speaker Andy Fowlston visited BRACU on 22nd of January, 2009 to discuss with BRACU students about "Project for computer game development". Andy Fowlston is a software engineer and teacher/trainer with experience in the interactive entertainment industry working on games for Electronic Arts and Microsoft. He has been living in Bangladesh for the past three years and working to bring games here. About 80 students were present in that event. Both current students and graduates of BRAC University participated and listened to different aspects of computer game development and the qualities needed to successful game development.

In short, his message was:

My name's Andy and I have four questions for you.

- * Do you enjoy computer games?
- * Are you interested in making your own computer games?
- * Are you a competent, enthusiastic software engineer?
- * Do you want to work as part of a small multi-disciplinary team? If you answered yes, please find out more about our project at http://andy.ntiers.net/are_you_good.html

After the discussion Mr. Andy invited the students to participate in an assessment competition and submit their projects by applying online. Andy will be running a training session of a game development project and will bring industry knowledge and skills to it

Applicants will be chosen based on their submissions to make up the training group.

Selected students from that competition will be trained for several months and given an opportunity for a Game Development Project during 2010-2011

Participated in the Club Fair

BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) Participated in the Club Fair "Britter Baire" organized by BUDTF on

the January 29, 2009 with a great enthusiasm. Members of BUCC were presented in the BUCC stall through out the fair and encouraged students from all levels to join this club. BUCC members told the interested students about various activities of the club such as national and international competition for programming skills, graphics design, website and software development, course help desk etc. BUCC members also encouraged students to participate in the Programming Training workshop for the coming ACM competition. New students joined the Club with great enthusiasm. A live quiz was also held during the fair. Winners will be given attractive prizes soon.

Challenge 24 is the 9th extreme challenge homepage where everyone will have a chance to get prepared for the next Extreme Challenge. Challenges are related to the field of algorithm theory, information and coding theory, databases, computer networks, computer graphics, software ergonomic, control theory and artificial intelligence.

BUCC is very thankful to Challenge24 for the banners and videos they have provided to BUCC for display at the Club Fair Spring 2009 of BRAC University. All the videos and banners helped the student of BRAC University to put extra light on the fact that will help them to determine in which way they can increase their knowledge on solving problems. <http://www.challenge24.org>

2FUNMAIL.com

2Funmail is the first full-service software gaming portal in Bangladesh. It was launched in the 1st of January. Some BUCC members went there for Launch Event in Safura Tower, Banani, 15th floor, on 18th January, 5pm.

Their aim is to bring all the thrills of online games in one awesome portal. It is the largest gaming portal of Bangladesh. This gaming portal has more than 100 world-class online games.

They have world's best, most wanted, and the most addictive international games. Cutting-edge gaming genres such as MOG's (Multiplayer Online Games) will soon be featured as well.

Considering all the age groups, they have created high quality games and will trigger this revolution by offering only the best in game. These high quality games are fun to play with friends and family members.

Currently, BUCC is considering a proposal from 2funmail.com to arrange a gaming contest in association with them. It may be noted that BUCC organized the last WCG 2008 School, College & University Championship at BRAC.

Bangla processing software launched

The Center for Research on Bangla Language Processing (CRBLP) launched the first official release of the Bangla language processing software packages for Text to Speech (TTS) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) named "Katha" and BanglaOCR respectively, on February 19, 2009 at 3 pm at indoor games room.

The chief guest at the launching ceremony, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro Vice Chancellor, BRACU spoke at the occasion, along with Monsur Ahmed Choudhury, MD, Jatyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF), Saiful Islam Khan, Project Officer, Joint project 'Strengthening Government Integrated Education program for the Blind' of the Shomaj Sheba Odibhoptor and Sight Savers International, and Dr. Mumit Khan, Professor, CSE, Head, CRBLP, BRAU. Guests included Shamsur Nahar Ahmed, Sight Savers International and Rafiq Zaman, National Forum of the Organizations Working with the Disabled.

CRBLP has been working on generating speech from Bangla Text. Text To Speech (TTS) system for the Bangla language can help tackle the illiteracy problem, empower the visually impaired and increase the possibilities of improved human-machine interaction. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) is the process of converting printed text images to editable text. CRBLP has been developing a Bangla OCR that takes the scanned image of a printed page or document as input and converts it into editable Unicode text. CRBLP is working on better integration with screen readers in collaboration with the vision impaired community. Although these software exist for other languages, this was the first release for Bangla in Bangladesh and represents a substantial leap in including the visually impaired in bridging the digital divide.

The TTS and OCR run on Linux, Windows and Mac OSX. There is also a web-enabled front-end for the TTS (and under development for the OCR), making these tools available at anytime and from anywhere.

MNS Update

Topical Seminar

MNS Department arranged a seminar on Wednesday, February 4, 2009. Professor Salahuddin Ahmad, Ph.D., DABR Professor and Director of Physics Oklahoma University HSC Oklahoma, USA presented the seminar talk entitled "Proton Induced Radiation Therapy". Muhammad Masud Rana, Medical Physicist, Dr Ahsan Shamim, Dr.Kazi Manzur Kader, Associate Professor Dr.Kurshed Alam, Assistant Professor Dr.A.F.M.Kamal Uddin, Registrar Dr.Sumon, Medical Officer Radiation Oncology Department, National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital, Mohakhali, Dhaka and all faculty members of the MNS Department and a few students attended the seminar. Lively discussion ensued the seminar.

Public Lecture

Dr Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Assistant Professor of Statistics and Mo. Rokibul Islam Lecturer of Mathematics participated in the Public Lecture on "Eradication of Hunger in the Context of Higher Food Prices: Achieving the MDGs" on February 9, 2009 at BRAC Center Auditorium. BRAC Development Institute, BRAC University, and the Bangladesh Agricultural University jointly hosted the Public Lecture by Professor Per Pinstrup-Andersen, former Director General at the International Food Policy Research Institute from 1992 to 2002. He is the recipient of the World Food Prize of 2001. He is currently H.E. Babcock Professor of Food, Nutrition and Public Policy at Cornell University. He presented an analysis of the food crisis, progress in the achievement of the MDG for hunger alleviation, and suggested policy interventions to reduce hunger in spite of higher prices in the short and long term perspectives. Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman, PPRC, and former Advisor to the Caretaker Government chaired the event. Professor Syed Hashemi, Director BRAC Development Institute and Professor M. A. Sattar Mandal, Vice Chancellor Bangladesh Agricultural University were also present.

Twenty First Annual Conference of the Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) 18-20 February 2009

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the 21st Annual Conference of the Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science held on 18-21 February 2009 at the Badruddouza Auditorium of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Gazipur. Ms. Matia Choudhury, Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest at the Inaugural Ceremony. The theme of the conference was Science for Food Security. Professor Choudhury presented a plenary lecture on "Food Security and Biotechnology: Global and National Perspectives". As the President of the Section II of the BAAS, he also chaired the Technical Session II on Agriculture, Plant Pathology, Microbiology and Biotechnology on 18 and 19 February 2009.

Research Paper Published in International Journal:

A research paper of Mo. Rokibul Islam, Lecturer of mathematics has been published in the international journal IAENG International Journal of Applied Mathematics, Volume: 39, Issue: 1, Page: 9-15, 2009. The title of the paper is "A New Asymptotic Solution for Third Order More Critically Damped Nonlinear Systems". The paper has been jointly authored by Dr. M. Ali Akbar, Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Mathematics, Rajshahi University.

Poetry Book

Facebook Kobita: Online Boshey Achi

A poetry book entitled "Facebook Kobita: Online Bosey Achi", by Mustak Ibn Ayub, Teaching Assistant, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) was published during Ekushey Book Fair, 2009. Most of the poems are post-modern type and contain personal glimpses with universal appeal. Some of the noteworthy poems are- "Would you be my Valentine, please", "Pathkoli," "Pathkal," "Songsoptok Manushera", "Prem Athoba anno kichu" etc. The book was published by Matrivas Prokash 11, PK Roy Road, Banglabazar, Dhaka.