

2008/february

## **15,000 Employees Gather to Celebrate BRAC's 35th Anniversary**

BRAC Founder and Chairperson, Fazle Hasan Abed, inaugurated the event. Highlights of the festivities included performances by popular artists including Runa Laila, Momtaz, Kumar Biswajit, Syed Abdul Hadi, Samina Chowdhury and Salma. The event also included dance choreography by Lubna Mariam and dance performances by Ria and Sohel. Popular television personality Abdun Noor Tushar hosted the event as the master of ceremonies. Specially designed interactive games and raffle draws were included to engage the audience.

The event was organized to pay tribute to the commitment and decades of hard work of BRAC's staff in poverty alleviation in Bangladesh. Due to space constraints, only the oldest of BRAC's over 56,000 full-time staff, 60,000 schools teachers and 70,000 health volunteers were invited. Originally scheduled to be held on December 15, the 35th anniversary celebrations were postponed in order to pay tribute to the victims of Cyclone Sidr and because some 3,000 BRAC staff members were dedicated to full-time post-Sidr relief and rehabilitation efforts.

250 BRACU students had volunteered to help organize this occasion.

## **Department of Architecture**

### **Faculty presents paper in conference**

Imon Chowdhoree, Lecturer, Department of Architecture presented a paper titled "Present Morphological Trends of Hindu Temples of Bangladesh: Study of Some Selected Cases of Sylhet" in the '4th International Seminar on Vernacular Settlement'. The conference, hosted by Faculty of Architecture, CEPT University, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad, India was held from 14th to 17th February 2008. The keynote address was by Dr. Hassan-Uddin Khan. The paper was highly appreciated by the present audiences and critiques. He also attended the post conference tour at Ahmedabad and met the famous Indian Architect Balkrishna V. Doshi.

### **Workshop on 'Building Safer Houses in SIDR Affected Areas in Bangladesh'**

BRAC in association with the Department of Architecture, BRAC University organized a three-day participatory workshop on "Building Safer Houses in SIDR Affected Areas in Bangladesh" from 16 to 18 February 2008 in AH 904. Participants were local builders from three different districts. Designing appropriate house and developing building-for-safety options in a cost-effective way were the main outcomes of the workshop which will be implemented soon in the affected area by BRAC. The workshop was facilitated by teachers and students of the Department of Architecture.

### **Visit by faculties of National University of Singapore**

Prof. Wong Yunn Chii, head, Department of Architecture, School of Design and Environment of National University of Singapore (NUS) visited the department on 25th February. Prof Wong along with Dr. Mizanur Rashid, a research associate from NUS made a presentation about their department, various study programs and areas of research with an intention to explore various modes of collaboration and intake of graduate students. The senior level students and faculty members of Department of Architecture attended the session.

### **AA school students organized exhibition**

As a continuation of the visit by students of AA school from London, an exhibition was held at the AA to 'report' back from their trip to Bangladesh and raise awareness of Cyclone Sidr and its affects. It was a great success, with representatives from the architectural community and Bangladeshi community in London visiting. The Deputy Mayor of Camden Borough has invited them to hold another exhibition in their council to relay their experience back to Bangladeshis living in London.

### **New faculties**

Three new faculty members joined the Department. Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana joined as Senior Lecturer. She did her MSc in Urban Planning from the University of Hong Kong in 2006. Her dissertation 'Social sustainability and quality of community space in the high-rise apartment buildings of Dhaka city' has been

awarded the best dissertation award from Hong Kong Institute of Planners. She had been teaching at the Architecture Discipline in Khulna University for the last 6 years.

Sarah Nasreen Shuchi joined as lecturer after completing her MSc in Advanced Environmental and Energy Studies jointly offered by University of East London and Center for Alternative Technology in UK. She did her dissertation on wind flow pattern in urban building passage. After her graduation from BUET she had been working as architectural assistant in Hobbs Construction and Design Ltd. UK for more than three years.

Md. Shajjad Hossain also joined as lecturer. He completed his Bachelor of Architecture from BUET in 2007. His final year thesis was on reducing solar heat gain in tall office building in the context of Dhaka.

## **School of Public Health**

### **Courses**

In February the module "Anthropological Approach to Public Health" and "Qualitative Research Methods" were completed. The first course was taught by Dr. Sjaak Van der Geest and Dr. Shahaduz Zaman. The Qualitative Research Methods course was conducted by Dr. Shahaduz Zaman and Dr. Sabina F Rashid.

On the last day of the Qualitative Research Methods course, students presented their short exploratory qualitative research on several public health issues conducted in Kakabo village, Savar.

### **Other Course and Training**

#### **Health Systems Research and Development (HSRD)**

First phase of the short course on Health Systems Research and Development (HSRD) is ongoing and being jointly organized by the School and ICDDR,B. Second phase of the course will begin on March 23. The overall goal of the course was to strengthen the Bangladesh health system through capacity building of the public health professionals. Keeping this in mind, the course was designed to train a group of public health professionals (mostly from the mid-level) via a formal selection procedure. Various fields of public health that was covered, includes structure and organization of health system, health care financing, health human resource, health management and leadership, epidemiology and demography, health system research etc. The teaching method was purely participatory in nature consisting of both formal power-point based lectures as well as group activities. The course was structured into two phases: first phase (three weeks) and second phase (one week) with a two weeks gap in between. During the first week, participants were given a comprehensive overview on health system (both on Bangladesh as well as global context) to help the participants to choose a topic on health system to write on it in group. At the moment the course has finished its 1st phase. It is expected that the groups will present their arguments in a formal session in the second phase. The course will award a certificate to the participants on successful completion of the course.

### **Faculty News**

#### **Staff Update**

Razia Sultana joined the school of Public Health on the 3rd of February 2008. She is a Medical doctor and was a student of the 3rd MPH batch of the school. She passed her MBBS from Gulf Medical College, Ajman, UAE in 2005. Razia has worked as a Junior House Officer in Mafraq Hospital, Abu Dhabi; UAE. She underwent a post graduate training in Internal Medicine.

Hailey MacEachern joined the school as an intern in February. She holds a BS in Biology from the College of Idaho. After completing her BS, she joined the Peace Corps and served two years in the Republic of Moldova, where she taught Health Education to class 5 through 11 and facilitated the development of awareness seminars on the topics of Domestic Violence, Breast Cancer, and Human Trafficking. She received a Fellowship from George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services (GWU SPHHS) Department of Global Health to complete her Masters Thesis for a Masters of Public Health with a Certificate in Global Health Promotion and to provide practical service to James P. Grant School of Public Health with the aim of increasing capacity for JPG SPH and to facilitate the formation of a stronger partnership between GWU SPHHS and JPGSPH.

### **Faculty Activities**

Mahrukh Mohiuddin attended a workshop from Jan 30-Feb 1 on Strategic Communication in Washington, DC, organized by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the Global Health grantees. The aim of this workshop was to equip the participants with a skills and a tool to design programs and messages to effectively reach their target audience and bring about the intended results or behavior change.

Dr. Anwar Islam and Dr. Tanvir Ahmed attended a workshop on "Designing Learning Interventions that Last" offered by the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) in association with the World Bank Institute and the Sri Lanka Distance Learning Center, Colombo, Sri Lanka from February 11-15, 2008. The overall goal of this work shop was to enable participants to design effective interactive learning interventions using what is called 'blended' learning techniques. Blended learning refers to the practice of using of a combination of technologies such as web based tools, videoconferencing, print materials, and face to face methods in an appropriate mix for a specific audience, rather than relying on a single technology or method. A step by step model was used by the participants to design a learning intervention in groups. Participants from all the countries of South Asia (except Maldives) attended the workshop.

Dr. Razia Sultana and Tarique Md. Nurul Huda, attended a workshop on 'Bioethics', at ICDDR,B during February 12-14, 2008, taught by Dr. Richard Cash (Harvard University) and Dr. Amar Jasani, (CEHAT, India).

## **BRACU Global Development Learning Network**

### **BU participation in a Workshop organized by GDLN in Sri Lanka DLC**

Dr. Anwar Islam, Professor, James P. Grant School of Public Health, Ali Salman, GDLN Coordinator and BBA Program Coordinator, Fahima Khanam, Senior System Administrator, Dr. Tanvir Ahmed, Reserch Associate James P. Grant, School of Public health participated in a 5 day workshop organized by the World Bank Institute and GDLN South Asia titled as "Designing Learning Interventions that Last" held From February 11-15, 2008 at Sri Lanka Distance Learning Center (DLC), Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The overall goal of this hands-on workshop was to enable participants to design effective interactive learning interventions using what is called "blended" learning techniques. Blended learning refers to the practice of using of a combination of technologies such as web based tools, videoconferencing, print materials, and face-to-face methods in an appropriate mix for a specific audience, rather than relying on a single technology or method.

Participants in the workshop was introduced to a step-by-step design process that will enable them to make the right design decisions by analyzing audience, defining learning objectives, identifying methods, and selecting delivery modes and tools. Utilizing case studies as a foundation, participants had the opportunity to design concrete learning interventions that apply sound pedagogical practices and employ a range of appropriate technologies. The workshop was practical and hands-on, providing participants with skills and techniques that they can immediately apply on-the-job.

### **GDLN Videoconference discussion held at BRAC University**

A two-hour, multi-country videoconference discussion on "Impact of Macro-level Shocks on South Asia Poverty Reduction Efforts" was held at BRAC University on February 26, 2008. Participants from six South Asian countries were connected through a program organized in collaboration with GDLN (Global Development Learning Network) and the World Bank. The countries were Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

The session began at 6:00pm with a presentation from the World Bank HQ in Washington by Dr. Shantayanan Devarajan, Chief Economist, South Asia Region of the World Bank. South Asia is the largest net importer of oil and food relative to its GDP. Between 2002 and 2007, global crude prices have increased by 185%, metal and mineral prices by 236%, and agricultural prices by 68%. The major two inputs to agriculture energy and fertilizer costs have increased in recent years, leading to a rise in food price. Besides, certain countries are using a substantial portion of their food crops, like wheat, maize and sugar for producing bio-fuels. On top of that, hostile climatic conditions and export bans by several countries have attributed to a global shortage of food. The bad news for SA countries is that global demand for bio-fuel will increase in coming years, and so food prices are expected to remain high and there is no sign of relief in the

foreseeable future.

The presentation was followed by a cross-country discussion, moderated by Mr. Ejaz Ghani Economic Adviser, South Asia PREM, World Bank, while the whole session was coordinated by Mr. Juan Blazquez, GDLN South Asia. The discussants were trying to address the fundamental questions (i) how have the external price shocks (in oil and food) affected domestic prices in your country?, (ii) what have been the effects on inflation, the fiscal deficit, and balance of payments?, and (iii) how can governments cushion the impact of these shocks on the poor?

Discussant from the participating countries volleyed questions to the presenter and sometimes came up with answers themselves. In order to cushion the impact of price shock on the poor, participants suggested that SA Governments should take both short term and long term measures. This include providing smart subsidies on essentials, especially oil, and building up buffer stocks as short term measures, while pooling up resources among SA countries for using them to expand supply in the long run was also considered. Among others, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro VC, BRAC University, representatives from World Bank Dhaka Office, Planning Commission, Financial Express, SABINCO, and teacher and students of the University of Development Alternative (UODA) took part in the discussion.

## **BRAC University Institute of Educational Development (BU-IED)**

### **Workshops on Non-Formal Education (NFE)**

As a part of the continuing effort in institutional capacity building in NFE, BU-IED organized two workshops in collaboration with UNESCO. Senior level personnel from Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) and NGOs were the target audience for the workshops. These workshops, held on February 4-6 and February 12-14, 2008 at BRAC Centre Inn, are essentially follow-on activities to what began in November 2007. November 2007 saw two workshops titled "Planning and Implementation of Monitoring in literacy/NFE Programs" and "Utilization of Research Findings in NFE/literacy Programs" and each of those workshops had four days of initial sharing of concepts and techniques, and afterwards required the participants use their acquired knowledge and skills for six weeks in their respective organizations in implementing an agreed activity.

The workshops held in February 2008 focused on a collective review of implemented activities and summing up of lessons, and were widely attended by 50 senior officials, managers, policymakers and other stakeholders from the government and non-government sector.

### **Consortium for Research on Educational Access, Transitions and Equity (CREATE)**

CREATE-team has a new member. Stuart Cameron is a doctoral student from the University of Sussex, UK. His research topic is decisions about primary schooling amongst poor households in Dhaka. Mr. Cameron's work will tie in with a planned large community and school survey to be conducted by BU-IED in Dhaka, as part of their CREATE (Consortium for Research on Educational Access, Transitions and Equity) work. Besides BU-IED, seven other research institutions from India, Ghana, South Africa and U.K. are partners in the international research collaboration supported by DFID.

As well as his own thesis, Stuart will be working on papers for CREATE including on multiple providers of education in Bangladesh.

## **Pathways of Women's Empowerment, South Asia Hub**

The Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme has had a very busy and exciting month in January. The program had organized a "Dialogue on Concepts of Women's Empowerment" on 21st January, 2008 that was very well attended. The panel presentations broadened the scope, depth and perspectives from which to approach issues around empowerment and opened up new areas for exploration and research. Pathways also hosted its Advisory Committee meeting on January 20th and convened an international working group meeting of researchers working on the theme "Building Constituencies for Gender Justice and Equality" with participants from Ghana, Nigeria, Palestine, Brazil, Pakistan and the UK during January 22-24th.

The photography exhibition "Changing Images of Women in Bangladesh" that was organized by Pathways traveled to Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna over the past month. It provoked a lot of thinking and discussion on the changing images of women in Bangladesh. At each of these places, Pathways also organized focus group discussions with students, journalists, garments workers, teachers, NGO workers, etc to talk about the photographs and participants ideas of empowerment and change. Pathways has submitted

a proposal to Inter Asia Cultural Studies, a refereed journal, to highlight this exhibit as a photo essay.

Maheen Sultan, Coordinator of Pathways will be attending the Management Meeting of the Pathways Research Consortium at the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex this month while Firdous Azim, Advisor of the Global Hub, will be attending the advisory committee meeting, also at IDS, Sussex.

## **Department of English and Humanities**

### **Visit to Ekushey Boi Mela**

The Department of English and Humanities organized a study trip to the Ekushey Boi Mela on 8th February, 2008, for students of ENG 115: Introduction to Prose. The students were accompanied by Razeen Abhi Mustafiz, Lecturer, ENH. The aim of the trip was to acquaint students with one of the largest literary events in the country and the spirit of the language movement which it commemorates. As part of the course, the students were required to submit an assignment based on the trip.

### **Seminar by Bernardine Evaristo**

On February 10, Bernardine Evaristo, a contemporary British writer, gave a talk entitled "The Case Against Inbreeding" about the history of multicultural writing in Britain. The seminar was organized by the Department of English and Humanities in association with the British Council.

## **Department of Economics and Social Sciences**

### **Seminar by Dr. Annu Jalais**

Dr. Annu Jalais, Anthropology Department, London School of Economics, UK, presented her ongoing research paper titled "Unmasking the Cosmopolitan Tiger", in a seminar organized by the Department of Economics and Social Sciences. The seminar was held on Thursday February 07, 2008 at ESS Conference Room. In her paper she looked at two different representations of tigers in recent history, one colonial and the other national and highlighted how representations, even of wild animals, are ultimately linked to power. She perpetrates the coercive and unequal relationship between, those who partake of the 'cosmopolitan' tiger view versus those who live with 'wild' tigers. The paper was based on fieldwork conducted in the Sundarbans region of West Bengal between 1999-2001.

### **Faculty Participation in International Workshop**

Mr. Jahangir Alam, Senior Lecturer, ESS attended a two-day research workshop to discuss about his paper titled "Children in the slums of Dhaka- Diarrhoea Prevalence and its Implications" to be included in the book on 'Valuing the Invaluable : The Practice of Environmental Economics in South Asia'. The workshop was held on 7th to 8th February, 2008 at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University Enclave, New Delhi, India.

### **International Student at ESS department**

Jane Wamwea Moore, a senior level student of University of East London has admitted to the Department of ESS as a transfer student. She will take some courses of ESS and will study BRAC's Development projects under the supervision of Dr. Anwarul Hoque.

### **Presentation on E-Resources of Ayesha Abed Library**

Ms. Hasina Afroz, Deputy Librarian, Ayesha Abed Library, BRAC University made a presentation to ESS faculty members about the PERI and EBSCO, two systems of e-resources through which students and faculty members can access to lots of world renowned journals.

### **ESS Seminar Series**

Tanveer Reza Rouf, an undergraduate student of ESS has presented his undergraduate thesis proposal on "Public Financing of Higher Education in Bangladesh", on Thursday February 28, 2008. The seminar was sponsored by the Department of Economics and Social Sciences.

### **Faculty Member's article in New Age**

Dr. Manzur Karim, Professor ESS has written an article in the daily newspaper "The New Age", titled "Language, Nation and Multiplicity". The article was published on February, 21, 2008

## **Institute of Governance Studies (IGS)**

Mr Manzoor Hasan, Director, facilitated and chaired one session of the regional workshop of the Human Security Report to be published by the Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies (BIISS). Ms Nuzhat Jabin & Mr Md. Mostafijar Rahman joined the Institute in January as a Project Associate & Departmental Coordination Officer (DCO) respectively. The Institute held a curriculum development workshop with the University of Manitoba, Canada for the Professional Certificate Programme on Environmental Governance under the 'Building Environmental Governance Capacity in Bangladesh'. Dr Rizwan Khair, Academic Coordinator and Ms Jabin have been working on this project from its inception. Dr Jose Edgardo Campos & Mr Manzoor Hasan presented a paper at DFID titled Reforming Institutions of Accountability: An Exploratory Approach.

Mr Hasan was invited to speak by the South Asian Human Rights Initiative (SAHRI) on the proposed Human Rights Commission by the Government of Bangladesh. The Institute has also discussed the possibility of collaboration with Royal Roads University, Canada. The Institute organised a re-union of the alumni of the Masters in Governance & Development programme at BDCM, Rajendrapur. Noted guests in attendance were, the Managing Director of Biman Bangladesh Dr Momen and Mr Nojibur Rahman, Joint-Secretary of Local Government.

The Institute hosted Dr Gower Rizvi, Director, Ash Institute for Democratic Governance & Innovation of Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University as faculty on the Masters programme for the Institute. Dr SR Osmani, School of Economics & Politics, University of Ulster, UK is currently teaching on the Masters programme. Dr Osmani has also taken classes on the Masters in Development Studies programme of the University. The team working on the National Integrity Strategy (NIS), led by Manzoor Hasan, met with the Cabinet Division on a number of occasions this month.

Mr Hasan also met Ambassador Einar Jensen of the Royal Danish Embassy to discuss the current activities of the Institute. Mr Hasan was interviewed with Erik Nora from The World Bank regarding the activities of the Institute and other issues. The live recording of the interview will be made available on The World Bank website.

## **Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) Department**

### **Election to the Board of Governors, NOAMI**

The Annual General Meeting of National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI), followed by an election to its Board of Governors was held on Saturday, February 2, 2008 at NOAMI office, 10/8 Eastern Plaza (9th Floor), Sonargaon Road, Dhaka-1205. Professor A.A.Z. Ahmad and Professor Naiyyum Chowdhury of the MNS Department of BRACU were elected to the offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for the period 2007-2009.

### **Seminar Organized by the MNS Department**

Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, delivered a seminar talk titled 'Physics in Fundamental Understanding of Nature' in Room CB 602 at Civil Engineers' Bhaban, on Thursday February 28, 2008 at 11.15 A.M. Latest developments of various concepts and phenomena in physics were described in the talk. The twelve building blocks of nature: six quarks and six leptons, their discoveries and their basic characteristics were presented in a lucid manner. The characteristics of four fundamental forces and their possible unification were also discussed. Professor Ahmed also mentioned about the electro-weak theory combining the electro magnetic and weak nuclear interactions and the subsequent award of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1979 to them. Einstein's dream for the Grand Unification Theory (GUT), current trends of applications of physics concepts and laws to bio-sciences, economy, finance, environment, climate change, global warming etc. were discussed. Professor Ahmed also stressed on why science support was essential for mankind and for the preservation of environment. Some videos of Nobel laureate Sheldon Glashow were also shown. Professor Jamal Nazrul Islam, Professor Emeritus of Chittagong University, teachers from the MNS Department and from other universities, students of BRACU and from Saint Joseph Higher Secondary School attended the seminar. Lively discussion ensued the presentation. The seminar was presided over by Professor A A Ziauddin Ahmad of the MNS Department

## **Student Affairs Office**

### **BRAC University Environment Awareness Forum**

Student members of the BRAC University Environment Awareness Forum (BUEAF) and the people of Korail squatter jointly installed a water filter in Korail squatter. The students and the local people installed the water tank and the filter, which gave them an opportunity to serve the community and get some hands on training. The filter was sponsored by Siemens Bangladesh Ltd. It was formally inaugurated on 7 February 2008, at 4:30 pm. Student members of BUEAF, Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Advisor BUEAF, Mr Rene Arnt, Director and Mr Md. Lakitullah, Senior Manager Siemens Bangladesh Ltd., Dr Zainab Faruqui Ali, Director Student Affairs, Professor Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson Dept of Architecture, and Huraera Jabeen, Lecturer Dept of Architecture were present in the 'water filter inauguration ceremony', where everyone took a sip of the purified water.

### **Intra-University Football Tournament-2008**

Football Club of BRAC University is organizing the INTRA University Football Tournament-2008 at TARC-Savar ground. Professor Dr. Iftexhar Ghani Chowdhury, Dean, BRAC Business School and Dr. Zainab F Ali, Director, Student Affairs inaugurated the tournament on 1st February, 2008. After successful completion of the 1st round, 2 teams Summers and Fall-2004 have taken place in the Final which is going to be held at 23rd March, 2008 at TARC Savar.

### **University Students visit Nepal to participate in a cultural festival**

A cultural team of BRAC University, consisting ten students and led by Ms Sahana Bajpaie (ENH) and Tanzir Chowdhury (ESS), went to Kathmandu University (KU) in Dhulikhel, Nepal last month to participate in the 3rd South Asian University Festival (SAUFEST). SAUFEST is organized by Association of Indian Universities (AIU), an organization aiming at promoting cooperation among the South Asian countries through cultural sharing between the Youth, and many public and private universities from Nepal, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh were invited to participate and share their country's culture. Beside BU, the participating universities from Bangladesh included Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and consortium of public universities from all across Bangladesh. BRAC University students were highly appraised for all of their performances, which include, a folk-dance from Shabnam Mustafa, folk- songs/light-vocals by S M Riadul Haque, Nazia Ahmed, Salman Raihan Khan, Adrita Anwar, S M Miftahuzzaman, debate from Zoheb Ahmed, and human puppet show by Md Badrul Alam Bappy and Fatema Umma Zohura, along with group song by all the members. The teachers met the organizing committee members to discuss the to take forward the objectives of SAUFEST further and co-hosting a SAUFEST in Bangladesh by BRAC University in collaboration with other public and private universities here.

### **The Trip to Panchagar by the EDF Team**

On 4th of February twenty six members group of Entrepreneurship Development Forum led by the advisor of the club Mr. Anup Chowdhury took a trip to Panchagar in the extreme northern district of Bangladesh.

## **BRAC Business School**

### **Networking Session with AB Bank**

A networking session with AB Bank was organized for the BBA and the MBA students. Mr. MA Abdullah, Head of Change Management & HR discussed about AB Bank's revamped identity with its new logo. Mr. Abdullah also spoke about the MTO recruitment policy and AB Bank's expectations from the graduates.

### **Professional Skills Development Program for the MBAs**

A five-day Professional Skills Development Program (Residential) for the BRACU MBA students was organized at TARC, Savar from Feb 9-14, 2008. The main focus of the program was to help students develop a professional image before they start job hunting. This practical program offered students tools and strategies to job hunt with confidence, write Resumes/CVs, be able to face an interview board confidently and enhance abilities to be an effective communicator, keeping in mind about the etiquettes.

The program kicked off with an ice-breaking session and the theme was 'Positive Attitude'. In order to help students identify and connect to BRAC, half a day was allocated towards learning about BRAC's values and its programs. The half a day session ended with a video called 'A New Horizon'. The rest of week was dedicated towards learning about appropriate professional appearances, etiquettes & protocol in the professional arena, tips and techniques of CV writing, business ethics, case analysis, business

correspondences, business presentation and interview skills. The program ended with a section on Career Success Planning.

The program was initiated by Professor Iftekhar Ghani Chowdhury, Dean BRAC Business School and coordinated by Professor Mojib U Ahmed, MBA Program Director assisted by Mr. Satyajit Modak, DCO MBA Program. Amongst the resource persons there were: Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro VC, BRACU, Mr Mehboob Rahman, Visiting Faculty, MBA, Anup Chowdhury, Lecturer BBS, Mr Sajedul Haque, Head of Writing Lab, Mr. Dominic Bennett, Visiting Faculty, BBA & MBA and Farzana Choudhury, Sr. Asst. Director, Career Services office.

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury graced the occasion by spending an afternoon and welcoming such an initiative for the first time for the MBA students.

### **BBA Alumni Update**

Samir Abdur Rahman, BBA graduate has been awarded as the best Territory Office at the National level and Md. Tajdin Hassan, also a BBA graduate, has been awarded as the best Territory Office from the Khulna region. Congratulations to both them.

## **Center For Languages in BRAC University: A new phase of facilitation**

Teaching English is always a complex task while in a classroom students are in different intellectual levels and from different backgrounds. Centre for Language (previously known as EL-Pro) is a real success story, constantly making efforts to bring a new dimension in Language Teaching. EL-Pro was first started as a language Teaching department at the end of 2005. Recently it changed its name as CFL and focusing on a wide variety of Language Teaching skills. To achieve professional excellence and ensure self-development of the facilitators CFL arranges workshops throughout the year. It is an excellent opportunity for the faculties to know what CFL expects from them and how they need to develop their skills.

A sophisticated and effective language teaching is the main priority of CFL. Faculties are very keen to make a difference while teaching and they always try to make most out of the language workshops. Language learning in Pre University level specially in the secondary and the higher secondary levels are only based on rules and the correct application of those rules. The entire process becomes very boring and monotonous. Students cannot realize how exciting and fun language teaching can be! CFL is trying to restore the missing link. CFL believes in innovation, critical thinking and creative language teaching. The main objectives of CFL faculties are self-development and enhancement and through these ensure successful learning of the students. Teachers should be facilitators and this is the motto of CFL, teachers are putting all their efforts together and so far, their success is praiseworthy.

## **Relationship Management Office**

### **Seminar by the American center**

The Educational Advising Center of the American Center, U.S. Embassy, Dhaka organized a seminar on the "Graduate Admission in the U.S." at BRAC University on Sunday, February 10, 2008 at AH 902. Dr. Zainab F. Ali, Director, Student Affairs welcomed the team from the American Center. Mr. Charles L. Jarrett, III, second secretary from the U. S. Embassy, Ms. Linda Das Quamer, Student Advising outreach Coordinator and Mr. Mirza M. Hassan, Outreach Librarian briefed the students about the most updated information on the student visa procedure and the library facilities offered by the center.

## **BRACU Residential Semester**

### **Quiz Competition**

The inter-dorm quiz competition has been organized successfully on February 03. Nikunjo (boy's dorm) became champion and Maloncho (boy's dorm) became runner-up. Abdur Rahman from Maloncho became best in quiz in Spring-08.

### **Carom**

The inter-dorm carom competition was held among the girl's dorms on February 04 at 6:30 pm. Surjoroshmi (girl's dorm) both single and double became champion by defeating other girl's dorm Surjalok.

### **Chess Competition**



The inter-dorm chess competition has been organized successfully On February 12 & 13. Maloncho (boy's dorm) became champion and Surjoroshmi (girl's dorm) became runner-up.

### **Puja Festival**

The RS students organized Shoroshoti Puja on 11th February 2008. The program started at 8:50 am. The students recite the Panchatantra and in the evening they took part in an exclusive dance by wearing different color of festoons. Honorable VC, Pro-VC & Director of CfL visited the ceremony.

### **Cfl Activities**

CfL organized various co-curricular activities during RS. On February 15-16, 2008, the first CfL weekend activities were held. This semester CfL offered a good number of activities. The activities included Yoga, pottery designing, glass painting, Photo-frame designing, cooking, tie & die, jewelry box making, fruits and vegetables carving, creative writing, poster making, fashion show and Thai language. Students beside their academic courses actively took part in these co-curricular activities.

### **Football**

RS inter dorm football final match was played between two boys dormitories, Nikunjo Vs Maloncho On February 14, 2008. The match was played in a very friendly atmosphere. Nikunjo became champion by 3-2 goals and Ishtiaque khan was the best footballer in Spring-08.

### **Handball**

The inter-dorm handball competition was held among the girls Dorms On February 16. Surjoroshmi became champion by 8-2 goals defeating Surjalok. Nabila became the best handball player.

### **Badminton**

The inter-dorm badminton competition was held among the girls dorms On February 18. Surjoroshmi became the single champion by 2 - 0 set and Surjalok became the double champion 2 - 0 set.

### **Table Tennis**

On February 18 the inter-dorm Table Tennis competition was held among the boys dorms. Nikunjo became both the single and Double champion by 2 - 0 set.

### **The Campus Super attended a training program on "Public Speaking"**

The Campus Super of BRACU Savar campus participated in a two week-long training program on "Public speaking" at BRAC Centre during February 03 to 16, 2008. Mrs. Alexis, an expert in public speaking of USA facilitated the program. There were 20 senior and mid-level participants from BRAC and BRACU participated in the training. Of them, Directors and senior program persons of BRAC and Faculties including the Director of CfL of BRAC University attended the program. The Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRACU attended some of the sessions as well

### **Open mix badminton championship**

An open mix badminton competition was held at savar campus from 23rd to 28th February, 2008. It is the first time that RS organized such kind of competition. Twenty four (24) teams were registered for that tournament. The Campus Super also participated in the tournament. Jakir & Eshita became champion and Ovi & Nansy became Runner-up.

### **Cricket: Boys**

The inter-dorm final cricket competition was held on February 29, among the boy's dorms. Maloncho became champion by defeating Nikunjo. Nikunjo won the toss and decided to field first. Maloncho scored 179 runs and nikunjo scored 157 runs by 10 wickets. Maesbaul Haque became the best cricketer in Spring-08. He scored 74 runs and took 2 wickets.

### **Cultural Program**

The Savar Campus experienced a beautiful, enjoyable and amusing cultural evening organized and participated by the students On February 13 and 27, 2008. The audience reveled in the rendition of music, dance, fashion show and drama to their heart's content.

**International Mothers Language Day**

With the spirit of "Aumar Ekushey", the TARC observed Shaheed Day and International Mother Language Day at BRACU campus, Savar. BRACU & TARC staff took part in "Probhat Ferry" (Morning Procession) at 12.01 AM and placed floral wreaths at the Shaheed Minar. The TARC staffs have recently built the temporary "Shaheed Minar" in the campus.

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