

2008/march

Department of Architecture

Student wins art competition

Hosnee Reza Choudhury, a senior student of architecture wins the 'Excellence Award' in the 'Asia Pacific Youth Art Competition 2006'. The 10,000 participants aged 20-30 submitted 28,000 entries in the competition. She received a gold medal, certificate along with a 10 days trip to Bangkok.

Faculty delivers lecture in Cornell University

Dr. Q M Mahtab-uz-Zaman, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture and Fulbright Research Fellow at College of Architecture, Art & Planning (Cornell University), has delivered a lecture "Globalization, Urban Auditing and Search for Sustainable Dhaka" at the South Asia Program of Cornell University on 10th March, 2008.

52nd Angan Lecture

Architect Abu Saleh (Lenin) discussed his experience in 52nd Angan lecture: 'Doing things right: Project management in the US' on 11th March 2008. He has been working as an architect/project manager at the Ohio State University managing the design and construction of a range of projects. He has also worked in the US as a practicing architect and as an owner's representative in managing projects dealing with multitude of scale and complexity.

Study Trips

Bandarban

As part of Rural Architecture course students and teachers went to Bandarban to study and document different architectural features of "pahari" communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts from 6th to 9th March 2008. They stayed in a village of Bawm community in Bogalake. They documented a Marma community named Bogalake Marmapara. The documentation covered the settlement pattern, indoor and outdoor spaces of a homestead, measured drawing of one house, building materials, building techniques and construction tools they use.

Tetulia, Panchagarh

The Sophomore I students, Department of Architecture, had been on a two day study trip from 13th to 15th March. The objective of the trip was twofold: to study design considerations for a highway bus stop and also to have an experience of a sustainable environment. They studied several highway bus stops and guesthouses on their way. The ultimate destination was an organic farm and tea estate at Tetulia, Panchagarh. There they had the opportunity to learn the significance of sustainable lifestyle and embraced the inspiration of living pure life through pure and healthy food. Three faculty members accompanied the students.

Cox's Bazar

Students of Junior I went to Cox's bazar for development of their terminal project of spring semester. They visited the site for designing a seaside resort in Himchori, Coxsbazar. As part of the assignment they spent a day to design a hilltop resting place considering the on site facilities and also presented the design to others. Studio teachers B K S Inan and Rahat M Niaz accompanied them during the study trip from 14th to 16th April, 2008.

Narayanganj

As part of the Housing and Development class activities, the Senior I students went to Narayanganj on 29th March to visit the project areas of Urban Partnership Poverty Reduction Project (UPPR) funded by DfiD and implemented by UNDP. The students were accompanied by Mike Slingsby, the Project Manager along with their tutor Huraera Jabeen. They visited two sites in Rishipara and Kumudini trust area, had elaborate discussion with the communities about their achievements related to poverty reduction. Also they tried to generate ideas from the communities about how to address housing in the future for them.

Open house of Freshmen 1

Open house of the Freshmen I was arranged on 16th March 2008.

The chairperson along with senior faculty members had an introductory session for the parents explaining

the course curricula, activities and the student life in the department. The parents had a guided visit to other studios, talked to the senior students and took great interest in the design works going on in the studios.

Faculty leaves for higher studies

Tariq Mahbub Khan, Senior Lecturer left for pursuing his PhD studies in the Urban Design Lab of the Department of Urban Engineering, University of Tokyo. He will be researching urban renewal and conservation under Professor Yukio Nishimura. He received the Monbukagakusho Scholarship 2008 to fund his research work.

Centre for Languages (CfL)

Knowing History

While working hard and trying to make a difference in teaching, CFL tries to understand the philosophy of BRAC as well. A seminar was arranged where Mr Abdur Rahman, a trainer of BRAC came and gave a lecture on how BRAC started and how it reached the stage where it is now. He showed a documentary 'The New Horizon', a brilliant manifestation of the journey of BRAC. Mr. Rahman's lectures focused on the following issues such as the history of BRAC, Mr. Abed's contribution in the liberation war, how BRAC is involved in other countries by changing the life styles of those who suffer from hunger, poverty, environmental degradation and all kinds on exploitation based on age, sex, religion and ethnicity. Mr. Rahman's presentation showed how BRAC gives the opportunity to achieve sustainable improvements and change the lives of people both home and abroad. Whole session was really effective and it will further motivate CFL faculty members to bring a change in the lives of the students.

CfL Trip to BRAC Dhamrai and Manikganj Schools and the Ayesha Abed Foundation: A Field Trip for Professional Development. On March 8, the CfL faculty visited BRAC primary schools and the Ayesha Abed Foundation. The purpose of the trip was to learn more about BRAC's teaching methods and the foundation's work that benefits underprivileged women.

The CfL instructors observed classes and mingled with the children of two BRAC schools in Dhamrai and Manikganj. It was amazing to see how the students were eager to learn and how the teachers used creative practices integrated with sound methodology. In addition to the usual subjects such as Bengali, English and Mathematics, the curriculum included creative writing, hygiene and group projects.

The teaching method that these rural teachers use is student-centered. The class is divided into groups and students serve as group leaders, and in this way, the teacher does not dominate. They make sure that their group members are involved in the learning activities and attend classes. It was interesting to observe how organized and disciplined these young children were. It was also interesting to note the similarities between the rural teachers and the CfL faculty. Both groups of teachers focus on student interaction and collaborative learning techniques, and these techniques make learning interesting and fun. The rural students demonstrated that learning can be fun by playing a game that helped them learn the names of the countries of the world. In a short time, the students wrote a paragraph about their mothers, and they read their stories for the enjoyment of Mrs. Abed and the CfL faculty.

Mrs. Abed and the instructors were pleased to see that BRAC is doing an excellent job of ensuring education for the rural children. The one-room school may be a humble location, but the learning that takes place inside is far from ordinary.

While visiting the Ayesha Abed Foundation, the CfL faculty was able to see the many different creative processes such as block and screen printing, tie dyeing, and hand embroidery. The efforts and the patience of the hardworking men and women can be seen in the excellent Aarong handicrafts.

The CfL staff is always eager to look for new opportunities and experiences that will help them to become better educators. This wonderful field trip will definitely assist in their future development.

Second CfL Weekend at the BU Residential Campus in Savar

The CfL faculty leads the extracurricular and co-curricular activities for the students at the Savar Residential

Campus. Throughout the semester, the CfL instructors facilitate and supervise three weekend programs.

In March there were the usual weekend activities, including yoga, sports, creative writing, glass painting, Thai language learning, jewelry box making, tie dying, debating and cooking.

In addition to all the activities, there were three special workshops, which were especially designed for the students. A candle-light dinner followed by a cultural show added a special touch to the weekend program.

Seminar on Grooming

Sadra N. Siddiky, a CfL instructor, facilitated the seminar on grooming. The focus was on business etiquette, social awareness, dining etiquette, and personal hygiene. The session was interactive, and the students engaged in brainstorming in groups and then presenting their ideas. The seminar was designed to help the students achieve professional excellence as future leaders.

Seminar on Nutrition

The seminar was facilitated by Sunida Witayakarn, a CfL instructor from Thailand. She emphasized the importance of healthy eating and the important sources of nutrition, especially for young adults. It was observed that some students were reluctant to eat vegetables and fruits. Therefore, creating awareness among those students in particular was a key objective of the seminar.

Seminar of Drug Abuse

This seminar was organized with to create awareness among the BU students about drug abuse, its causes, and consequences. Brother Ronald Drahozal and two staff members who are recovering addicts facilitated this seminar. Bro. Drahozal is the Founder and Executive Director of APON, an addiction rehabilitation center and residence. APON has been providing drug rehabilitation to the poor and young since its establishment in 1994. Through an effective Q&A session, this seminar helped the students be aware of the deadly consequences of drug abuse and of the different ways to get assistance.

Training on Public Speaking

Alexis Johnson, a member of the well known Toastmasters International Institute for Public Speaking and Motivational Speech, conducted public speaking training for the directors of BRAC and the teachers and trainers of CfL. Following the initial training, a train-the-trainer session was held, for the staff from both the BRAC Training Division and CfL.

The training was a refreshing reminder of the value of being a motivational and a moving speaker in terms of relating to the audience and making it worthwhile for them to attend and understand the topic.

The program focused mainly on the delivery rather than the content of the speech. Alexis was most encouraging while working with the voice aspect, focusing on the pitch, volume, emphasis, tone and variety. She also used the component of effective story-telling in speech. For the train-the-trainer session, she concentrated on facilitation skills through micro training sessions.

Alexis is working online with the BRAC and CfL staff, to develop a module on public speaking for different kinds of audiences, ranging from students to professional trainers.

South Asia Regional Cooperation GDLN Dialogue

Video Conference on Bird Flu held at BU

A distance learning seminar organized by the World Bank, FAO, OIE and the Tokyo Development Learning Center on Vaccination against Avian Influenza: Issues and Strategies within the Context of an Overall Control Program were held at BRAC University Video Conference Center on 19th March 2008. In this seminar, led by specialists from FAO, OIE and the World Bank, participants will discuss use of poultry vaccination in the context of an overall AHI control program. The seminar also discussed (a) Rationale - choosing to vaccinate, allowing vaccination, or choosing not to vaccinate; (b) Vaccination Strategies - start dates, planned durations and exit strategies, types of vaccines, targeting poultry production sectors and/or regions, monitoring of vaccination and virus circulation, and for countries which do not vaccinate, and alternative control measures; (c) Practicalities of Implementation; (d) Results - vaccine coverage and observed efficacy, cost of vaccination and funding sources, observed constraints, successes and

weaknesses; (e) Perspectives - short, medium, long-term plans, exit strategies, and (f) Support - needed to improve the a country's vaccination strategy and/or to address challenges to implementation, and possible solutions. The event connected through Real Time Video Conference with Cotonou, Abuja, Cairo, Dhaka (BRAC University GDLN Center), Jakarta, Paris, Rome (FAO) Tokyo (TDLC) and Washington DC (GDLN Studio).

For more information on World Bank report on Bird Flu, please go to:

<http://www.worldbank.org/avianflu>

Video Conference on Strengthening Links between South Asia and Africa held at BU

A multi-country two-hour videoconference discussion connecting participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Took place at BRAC University GDLN Center Thursday, March 13, 2008 on Trade and Growth Dialogue between South Asia and Africa Strengthening links between South Asia and Africa. Our Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed attended the program.

The session started with a brief introductory presentation by Harry Broadman, Economic Advisor for the Africa Region of the World Bank and author of the recent book Africa "Silk Road: China and India" New Economic Frontier, and introductory remarks by four representatives of the private and public sectors in South Asia and Africa. A multi-country discussion followed with a focus on highlighting and discussing key issues, historical and recent trends, challenges and priority areas of collaboration for enhanced trade between South Asia and Africa, as well as potential opportunities ahead.

For more information on South Asia Regional Integration, please go to:

<http://www.worldbank.org/sarintegration>

Video Conference on "Consultation on South Asian Research, Education and Innovation (SARENI)" held at BU

South Asia Regional Cooperation GDLN Dialogue: "Consultation on South Asian Research, Education and Innovation (SARENI)", took place on March 11, 2008 through Video Conference being organized by the World Bank South Asia Regional Cooperation Program held at BRAC University Video Conference Center. The key speakers were Prof Tissa Vitarana, Minister of Science & Technology, Sri Lanka, Dr. Mohammad Azam Dadfar, Minister of Higher Education, Afghanistan; Professor Att-ur-Rahman, Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan and Dr Sam Pitroda, Chairman, India's National Knowledge Commission. From BRAC University our Adviser to the Governing Board Dr. Riaz Khan attended the session with the Member of UGC on his side.

This was part of World Bank's regional integration dialogue series aimed at promoting cross-country learning with a focus on cross-border externalities. There are untapped positive synergies at the South Asia regional level in terms of information sharing and competition in ideas between universities, non-university research and teaching entities, libraries, hospitals, and other knowledge institutions. A regional high-bandwidth, high-speed Internet-based network could help spur such benefits, facilitating greater interactions between knowledge workers in areas such as high-energy physics, nanotechnology, and medical research. It also could help in the building and sharing of regional databases, and in addressing regional and especially regional-rural problems, including multi-country initiatives such as flood control, disaster management, climate change, and infectious disease control. Importantly, such an effort could help spark higher and more sustainable regional growth.

Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS)

CRP Visit by the students of Bangladesh Studies

As a part of the community service students of BRACU residential semester has visited Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), Savar. A total of 150 students were divided into two groups and the first group went to CRP on March 01, 2008 and the second group went on March 08, 2008. The students visited various activities and programs of CRP for physically disabled people. Students were moved by seeing the plight of the paralyzed people of CRP who are undergoing treatment. In a feedback meeting followed by the visit the students expressed their gratefulness to BRACU and the Bangladesh Studies Program to provide them the opportunity of such awareness building visit which raise their awareness about paralyzed citizens of our country and remove the common misconceptions about the physically challenged, and any stigma that they previously associated with being physically disabled. A feature titled "We are not Disabled, We are Differently Able" written by Rudmila Ahmed, a student of BRACU has been published in

Star Campus on March 30, 2008. (The link is, http://www.thedailystar.net/campus/2008/03/05/feature_able.htm)

Seminar Presentation by Dr. Mahabub Hossain

Dr. Mahabub Hossain, Executive Director, BRAC has given a presentation on "BRAC: Its role in addressing development challenges in Bangladesh " on March 20, 2007 at ESS Conference Room. The seminar was organized by The Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS). In his presentation he focused on various programs of BRAC, such as Microfinance Program, Agriculture Development Program, Health Program, Social Development Program and Human Rights and Legal Services and how these programs and other activities of BRAC is helping the poor to alleviate poverty and to increase their productivity. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Dr. Anwarul Hoque, Chairman of ESS Department and faculty members and students of ESS were present in the seminar. In a lively discussion and question answer session followed by the presentation Dr. Hossain gave answer to the questions of student.

Independence Day Program of Bangladesh Studies

On the eve of Independence Day, students and faculty members of Bangladesh Studies (DEV 101) organized a program at the Residential Campus of BRAC University, TARC, Savar. The program started in the morning with a rally of students, faculty members, RS Campus Super and other staffs of BRACU and BRAC. They placed a flower reef at the replica of National Memorial at TARC, Savar. A competition of indigenous game was also arranged and students and faculty members participated in the competition. In the evening a cultural program marked 'Independence Day' was organized and students rendered songs, recited poems and performed dance.

Faculty Participation in a workshop on Migration

Moshahida Sultana, Lecturer of ESS attended a seven day long workshop on Migration, Globalization, Security, and Development from March 9 to March 16, 2008. This workshop was organized by South Asia Migration Resource Network (SAMReN). The workshop was held in Godavari village resort, Kathmandu, Nepal, was designed to enhance understanding of migration processes in South Asian and international frameworks, and to equip young academics and professionals in migration research and management.

Paper Presentation in South Asian Sociological Conference

Dr. Manzur Karim, Associate Professor of ESS has presented a paper titled, "Beyond Euro centrism: Call for a Post Colonial Sociological Theory" at South Asian Sociological Conference held on March 10-11, 2008. In his paper he focused about the need for a post colonial paradigm shift and sociological theory. The seminar was organized by Independent University, Bangladesh.

Other Seminar Participation

Dr. Manzur Karim, Associate Professor has chaired in a session in "First National Education Conference on Wither Policy Reform in Education: Lessons and Challenges", organized by Unnayan Onneshan. The session was on Indigenous Knowledge and Medium of Education. The conference was held at CIRDAP Auditorium on March 02, 2008.

Congratulations! to our colleagues on their well-deserved promotion

New Designation	Old Designation
Dr. Sayeed Salam Professor & Chairperson CSE Department	Dr. Sayeed Salam Associate Professor & Chairperson CSE Department
Dr. Mumit Khan Professor CSE Department	Dr. Mumit Khan Associate Professor CSE Department
Dr. A. K. M. Abdul Malek Azad Associate Professor CSE Department	Dr. A. K. M. Abdul Malek Azad Assistant Professor CSE Department

Ms. Bushra Tawfiq Chowdhury Sr. Lecturer CSE Department	Ms. Bushra Tawfiq Chowdhury Lecturer-II CSE Department
Ms. Nazmus Sabeka Sr. Examination & Transcript Officer	Ms. Nazmus Sabeka Examination & Transcript Officer
Mr. Nurul Islam Bulbul Sr. Administrative Officer	Mr. Nurul Islam Bulbul Administrative Officer
Mr. Md. Sadat Mursalin Chowdhury Asst. System Administrator	Mr. Md. Sadat Mursalin Chowdhury Lab Technical Officer
Mr. Md. Kamal Parvez Asst. Librarian (IT)	Mr. Md. Kamal Parvez Junior Librarian (IT)
Mr. Ahmed Parvez Asst. Librarian	Mr. Ahmed Parvez Junior Librarian

Welcome to Asefa Huda who has joined as Lecturer in BRAC Business School on April 03, 2008. Ms. Huda completed her MBA Program from IBA after obtaining bachelor degree in Business Administration from Dhaka University.

Institute of Educational Development (IED)

IED co-organises Conference on Education Governance

The three day conference on Governance in Education: Transparency, Accountability and Effectiveness was organized on March 2-4, 2008 by UNESCO in cooperation with the Ministries of Education and Primary and Mass Education with assistance from Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University.

The conference was addressed and inaugurated by Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, Chief Adviser of the Care-taker Government, at the International Conference Centre, Shapla Hall, at the Chief Adviser's Office. Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Director, Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University and Anir Chowdhury, Policy Adviser, Access to Information Programme, Chief Adviser's Office presented the theme papers. Ms. Rasheda K. Chowdhury, Adviser for Primary and Mass Education and Mr. Malama Meleisea, Director, UNESCO, Bangladesh also spoke at the inaugural programme, which was chaired by Mr. Md. Momtajul Islam Secretary, Ministry of Education.

Over 80 participants from the central and field levels in primary and secondary education, academics, and representatives of NGOs and other stakeholders participated in the working sessions on 2-3 March, 2008. A ten-point Framework for Action for better outcomes in education was presented by Dr. Manzoor Ahmed at the closing session.

The closing session was addressed by Dr. A.B. Mirza Azizul Islam, Adviser for Finance and Planning, as the Chief Guest. Ms. Rasheda K. Chowdhury, Mr. Ashrafu Moqbul, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education, Ms. Hua Du, Country Director, Asian Development Bank also spoke. Mr. M. Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, chaired the session and Dr. Mahmudul Hassan, Secretary, Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO made the concluding remarks.

IED Director at E-9 Conference

Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Director, IED attended the 7th conference for cooperation on Education for All among 9 high population countries (E-9 Group) as a member of the Bangladesh Delegation. The meeting was hosted by Indonesia and was held in Bali from 10 to 13 March, 2008. Mr. Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, led the Bangladesh delegation. Ministerial or senior official participants from Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan took part in the meeting.

Focusing on the theme of teachers as the key to quality education, the meeting shared strategies and plans regarding teacher preparation, incentives and performance in the 9 countries, which represent 60 percent of the world's population. They pledged to exchange ideas and experiences and cooperate in enhancing the contribution of teachers to achieving the EFA goals. The next E-9 conference will be held at Abuja, the capital of Nigeria, in 2010.

Language Development Initiative

Two visitors from the International Reading Association (IRA), Dr. Sandra Zaher, Director of English Language Institute at the University of Abu Dhabi and a volunteer of the International Reading Association (IRA) as well, and Mr. Sakil Malik, Senior Project Officer of the IRA, visited IED from March 16-29, 2008. The visit was a part of the on-going partnership program between IED and IRA. IRA is professional network of associations for those who help others learn to read, and develop literacy skills and has been in existence for over 50 years.

The main objective of their visit was to explore and examine the situation of Bangla and English language skills development at the primary level including curriculum objectives, teaching learning practices, learning materials, teacher development and the overall learning environment conditions in schools in Bangladesh. Moreover, this visit also attempted to identify the needs and scopes to enhance capacities of the IED professionals.

During their stay in Bangladesh they have visited two government primary schools in Chandina, National Academy for Primary Education (NAPE), Primary Training Institute (PTI) at Mymensingh, National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM), BRAC non-formal school at Habirbari, National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) and UNESCO. Several meetings were arranged with primary schools teachers, head masters, local education administrators, curriculum and language experts, teacher trainers and trainees, PEDPII consultants and others. These visits were part of the overall advocacy work for language development in Bangladesh.

The visit concluded with a National Consultative Workshop, organized by IED and IRA to raise awareness on the importance of language literacy development in Bangladesh, and highlight and discuss the identified problems.

Workshop with National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB)

Early Childhood Development Resource Center (ECDRC) organized a one day workshop with National Curriculum and Textbook Board at IED on February 24, 2008. The aim of the workshop was to familiarize NCTB members with the curriculum developed by ECDRC for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten level. ECDRC also developed an ECD Policy Framework for the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) which has been very recently approved by MoPME. In order to run pre-school centers in every government primary schools the government will require a curriculum for pre-schools which has to be developed by NCTB. ECDRC is presently working with NCTB to furnish the national curriculum for government pre-school centers.

Postgraduate Certificate Program on Early Childhood Development (ECD)

The second course of the Postgraduate Certificate Program (ECD522: A Framework for Designing Early Childhood Program) has commenced on March 02, 2008. Prof. Dr. Jessica Ball (Victoria University, Canada) was the Principal Facilitator of the course. Ms. Farida Akhtar (Child Development Psychologist, Inner Force), Prof. M. Nazmul Haq (IER, Dhaka University), Dr. M. Quamrul Hassan (Pediatrician, Apollo Hospitals) and Dr. Golam Mostafa (Education team, UNICEF) joined as national resource persons and co-facilitators in the course. The course will end on April 24, 2008. It is a joint collaboration program of BRAC University, Open Society Institute UK and Columbia University.

A visit by Plan International members

40 staff members of Plan International visited IED on March 18 and 19. The team included country and regional program support managers, learning, education and health advisors, program unit managers and resource persons from Plan offices in the UK, Australia, Sudan, Senegal, Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, China and Belgium. An overview of IED and its Early Childhood Development Resource Center (ECDRC) and its core activities were presented to them.

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS)

In March we have recruited 5 members of staff to the IGS team. Ms Hilda Rozario has joined the institute as a front desk officer, Ms Rumana Sarkar as Executive Assistant to the Director, Mr Mohammed Kamrul as Programme Assistant (Finance), Mr Rajib Sarkar & Mr Sultan Zakaria as Research Assistant.

Shahnaz Karim, Assistant Director, presented a paper on "Overcoming problems in Education Governance" at the Conference on Governance in Education, organised by the Institute of Education & Development (IED), BRACU. Manzoor Hasan was invited to give a series of lectures at the BCS Academy, Shahbagh. He was a resource person at the workshop organised by U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre "Building Capacity and demand for Anti-Corruption Reform outside the State", Dhaka. He was also invited by the World Bank to attend a training programme in Washington D.C. While in Washington he was invited by George Mason University (GMU) to discuss possible future collaborations; IGS and GMU signed a MoU in November 2007.

Manzoor Hasan met with senior officials of DAI in Washington. DAI is the implementing agency of the USAID PROGATI project, of which, IGS is a key partner. The Institute has signed a contract to develop the National Integrity Strategy (NIS) with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The NIS team is composed of Barrister Jenefa Jabbar, Mr Ekram Hossain, Mr Sultan Zakaria, Dr Ahmed-ul Gani, Mr Rajib Sarkar and Barrister Manzoor Hasan.

The Institute hosted two Research Fellows, Barrister Larry Taman and Mr Niall Johnston at the end of the month and hopes to work with them both in the near future. On 29th March the Institute organised a day-long workshop on the draft Right to Information Ordinance 2008. The workshop was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Information, members of the civil society, academia, journalists, and international experts. Mr Haydory Akbar Ahmed and Mr Asif Mohammad Shahan from IGS, made presentations based on the draft Ordinance. The discussants at the workshop provided recommendations to further strengthen the legislation and avoid possible pitfalls experienced elsewhere. The proceedings from the workshop will be used to formulate a set of recommendations to be submitted to the government before the Ordinance is finalised.

Winner of Ekushey Gold Medal: Prof. Dr. M. Emdadul Haq

Dr. M. Emdadul Haq, who picked up a professorial position at the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of BRAC University in August 2007, has received Shahid Direndra Nath Dutta Ekushey Gold Medal from Brahmanbaria recently. Gunijon Shambordhona Parishad has been consecutively organizing the event for the last eight years. This year, Professor Haq was nominated for this award for his outstanding contribution to the field of knowledge and education. The event took place in the local Town Hall and was widely attended by eminent cultural figures of the country (such as Sheikh Sadi Khan, Samina Nabi, Abdun Noor Tushar), local leaders, administrators, journalists, business elites, students etc.

Prior to his joining at the BRAC University, Professor Haq has had a long teaching background in Political Science at the University of Chittagong. He was the founder Chair of the Department of International Relations there. Professor Haq's ground breaking work *Drugs in South Asia: from the Opium Trade to the Present Day* has been published by world's two leading publishing houses: Macmillan Press in UK and St. Martin's Press in the US. In 2003, the British Academy awarded him Visiting Professorship to accomplish some research work in London and Glasgow.

At IGS, Professor Emdadul Haq is involved in MA in Governance and Development (MAGD) program and research activities run by the institute, having major area of interest on leading issues of governance in Bangladesh. It may be worth mentioning that the MADG program is currently offered to the mid-level civil servants for their capacity building through a tripartite arrangement between the World Bank, Bangladesh Government and BRAC University.

Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS)

The 6th Annual Scientific Conference of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) held in Chittagong

Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor of Biotechnology at the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences presented a paper entitled 'GM Crops: Understanding the Nexus between Food Security and

Biosafety' at the 6th Annual Scientific Conference of CVASU at Chittagong on March 6, 2008. The theme of this conference was "Changing World and Emerging Challenges: One World, One Health Approach" jointly organized by 'One World One Health- Bangladesh Initiative' and CVASU. Scientists from home and abroad participated in the conference. Under the 'food security and food safety' theme-session Dr. Islam's talk focused on transgenic or genetically modified (GM) crops which promise improved production thus ensuring better food security. The presentation also highlighted research needs aimed at assessing potential risk concerns of GM foods to ensure food safety for the consumers as well as the environment. With the changing world scenario and increasing food demands, Bangladesh may not be in a position to say 'no' to GM crops but keeping one informed about the mounting challenges and getting prepared for them was the objective of her talk. The oration evoked numerous questions on food, health and feed safety, which were addressed during the question-answer session. The day ended with the recognition of the importance of biosafety as an up coming challenge in the transforming world.

Second Congress of Young Biotechnologists of Bangladesh (Young BB)

Ms. Nazlee Sharmin, Teaching Assistant of the MNS Department, presented a seminar talk in the 2nd Congress of Young Biotechnologists, Bangladesh (Young BB) held at T.S.C (Teachers and Students Centre) auditorium of the University of Dhaka on the 19th March 2008. The theme of the Congress was 'Biopharmaceuticals'. The presentation of Ms. Sharmin was entitled 'Biopharmaceuticals-New solutions to old problem'. In her talk, she highlighted the prospects and opportunities of biopharmaceutical business in Bangladesh in the context of the global market scenario. In order to attract the undergraduate students, her presentation also covered the basic techniques of producing biotech products, edible vaccines and also biopharming- the newly emerging modern concept of biopharmaceuticals. Hundreds of graduate and undergraduate students studying biotechnology at various public and private universities of Bangladesh as well as representatives from different pharmaceutical companies were present in the day-long congress.

Bose Conference on Contemporary Physics- 08

The Bose Conference on Contemporary Physics- 08 was held at the Physics Department, University of Dhaka from 19-21 March, 2008. The conference was jointly organized by the Physics Department, University of Dhaka and the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy. Professor A.A.Z. Ahmad of the MNS Department, chaired a Technical Session on nuclear physics, radiation physics and health physics. Professor Arshad Momen of the Physics Department, University of Dhaka acted as the rapporteur.

There were two invited talks entitled "Nuclear Structure of ^{99}Mo from the (t, p) reaction" and "Elastic and inelastic scattering of $^{16}\text{O}+^{64}\text{Zn}$ at near "barrier energies" respectively presented by Professor Md. Shafi Chowdhury and Professor A. Rahman, both from the Department of Physics, University of Dhaka. There were also five contributory papers presented at this session.

Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed of the MNS Department participated in the conference with an invited talk "Nonlinear Gravitational-Plasma Dynamics: Dark Solitons" in the high energy physics and plasma physics session. There were ten contributory papers presented at this session.

MS Biotechnology Students' Trip to Square Agritech

On the 22nd March 2008, the students who are pursuing the MS programme in biotechnology at BRACU, accompanied by Dr Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor of the MNS Department went on a study tour to Square Agritech, a commercial agri-based venture set up by the Square Group at Uttara Model Town. The complex consists of a tissue culture laboratory and a plantlet hardening area. The senior scientist in charge of the centre Ms Nafisa Akhter took the students around the lab facilities and informed them about the step-wise procedures from washing, autoclaving, media preparation, inoculation, growing plantlets to hardening which is the final step before marketing. Tissue culture protocols collected from various universities of the country are modified into financially feasible protocols at the centre before their commercial production. Established in 2002, Square Agritech is commercially producing virus-free potato certified seeds and virus-free banana saplings, which are widely accepted in the market. Work is also in progress with protocol adjustment of orchids, carnation, strawberry and stevia. Since the first commercial production in 2004 the centre has been enjoying increase in revenue indicating that eventually it will be self-sustaining. Perceiving the future expansion of the centre, students felt encouraged in continuing their studies with bright prospects of jobs in such biotech establishments and also felt encouraged in establishing such other labs for building up self-reliance.

The 3rd Bangladesh-Japan International Conference on Microbiology, Food Safety and Food

Hygiene

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the 3rd Bangladesh-Japan International Conference on Microbiology, Food Safety and Food Hygiene organized jointly by the Bangladesh Japan Association for Science and Technology and the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and held at the Senate Bhavan, University of Dhaka on 24-25 March 2008. Mr. Manik Lal Somaddar, Special Assistant to the Chief Advisor was the Chief Guest of the conference. Mr. Masyuki Inoue, Japanese Ambassador and Professor S.M.A Faiz Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka were special guests. Professor Choudhury presented a paper on food safety, public health and socioeconomic issues in the Conference.

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury was an invited speaker in the Workshop on Medical Biotechnology held at the IEDCR Auditorium, Mohakhali on 29-30 March and organized by the National Technical Committee on Medical Biotechnology, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Professor Choudhury presented a paper on Prospects of Medical Biotechnology in Bangladesh

Study Tour, March 2008

The Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) of BRACU organized a study tour on the 27th of March to Cox's Bazar. The study team consisted of Mr. Md. Maruf Ahmed, Lecturer, Mr. Shamim Azad, DCO and Ms. Nazlee Sharmin, Teaching Assistant in the Department of MNS and twenty four students. The study tour was mainly planned to visit two centres of scientific importance at the township: a remote hilltop radar station belonging to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and the Beach Sand Minerals Exploitation Centre of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC).

The meteorological radar station at Cox's Bazar aims at improving the communications and data analysis methods for predicting weather conditions along the coastal belt of Bangladesh. There are four radar stations located throughout the country. Set up in 2007, the Cox's Bazar station came under a grant aid as a token of friendship and cooperation between Japan and Bangladesh and acts as a relay station between Cox's Bazar and Khepupara, Barisal. The sole purpose of the station is to establish an improved weather forecasting system for the coastal regions of the country. The radar is used to detect large convective clouds having a minimum span of 2.5km. The system has a maximum range of 400km: an output of 500kW and operates at a frequency of 2850MHz. It can be used to detect the intensity (i.e. nature and curvature) of cloud formations. Such data is of crucial importance for a country such as Bangladesh for providing advance warning for tropical storms and unexpected weather changes.

On their second visit, the students were taken to the Beach Sand Minerals Exploitation Centre (BSMEC) located at Kalatoli, a facility of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission. This centre, as the name suggests, retrieves minerals of economic importance from raw sands readily available along the coast and also in some nearby islands like Moheshkhali.

Magnetite, ilmenite (iron/titanium oxide), garnet, rutile (titanium oxide) and zircon (zirconium silicate) are the five mineral compounds extensively extracted at this facility. The elaborate processes through which these important minerals are separated and extracted from raw sands were explained thoroughly by the experts working at the establishment. Raw sand is first washed and filtered for magnetite and ilmenite (the heavier minerals) on a large scale-vibrating table called a Wilfley Table. Magnetite is removed using a low intensity magnetic separator (LIMS) and then dried. Then a device called a "wet" high intensity magnetic separator (WHIMS), which utilizes a magnetic field is used to separate the weaker magnetic materials. Thus, magnetite and ilmenite are separated. From this stage a high-tension roll separator (HTRS) is used to separate the conducting materials from the non-conducting ones, namely rutile and garnet. Finally, an induced roll magnetic separator is used to separate zircon and ilmenite. In this manner large quantities of these economically important minerals are retrieved from the beach sand at the facility everyday.

The students were also taken to two sites of natural beauty and awe-inspiring panoramic views. These are at Himchori, near the Cox's Bazar town and at Inani, a village situated approximately 15km south of the town. A slight fraction of the entire 200km coastline of Cox's Bazar could be seen from the hillside at Himchori. The view there was really breathtaking. At Inani beach the students enjoyed a few minutes of pure bliss created by the scenic beauty and the coast. The powerful seaside winds and crashing waves could ease the minds of even the strongest Goliath: a truly magnificent place to experience the awesome power of nature.

It remains to be noted as to how much the tour members really enjoyed or learned from this unique trip, as

it was the first of its kind to be organized by the Department of MNS. All the participants in the tour agree that it had been a resounding success. The Department also wishes to extend this idea further, so that more such educative excursions could be facilitated for the students in the future. The Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and BRACU are really appreciative of the kind gestures of BAEC and BMD for facilitating the study tour.

Fifth Training Course on Oceanography: Principles and Applications

The inaugural ceremony of the Fifth Training Course on Oceanography: Principles and Applications was held on Sunday, March 30, 2008 at 5 pm at the Atomic Energy Centre Dhaka (AECD). Professor A.M.M. Safiullah, Vice-Chancellor, BUET was the Chief guest at the function presided over by Professor A.A.Z. Ahmad. The function was attended by resource persons, course participants, members of NOAMI and other guests. The classes started on April 1, 2008 and will end on June 30, 2008. A field trip of about a week's duration is an integral part of the course. There are twenty participants nominated by the various R/D institutions of the country both in the public and private sectors are attending this course.

James P Grant School of Public Health

MPH Programme

The MPH students are taking their Epidemiology and Biostatistics course which commenced on 9th march. This is first time that the two courses are being offered simultaneously considering the interconnectedness of the concepts of the two courses. On the Independence Day (March 26) the students had class but in afternoon they visited the national monument in Savar.

A short report on Health System Research and Development (HSRD)

With an objective of strengthening further the health system through capacity building of the health professionals, the HSRD course started on 17th February '08 and continued up to 27th March with a two weeks break from 7 to 22 March. Ten health professionals from different organizations (BRAC, ICDDR,B, CRP etc.) participated in the course. It was a collaborative effort of James P Grant School of Public Health (Dr. Tanvir Ahmed and Ms. Sabiha Sadik, under the leadership of Dr. Anwar Islam) and ICDDR, B. (Dr. Tracey Koehlmooos and her team).

The first phase (3 weeks) of the course was conducted in BRAC TARC at Niketan. The participants were exposed to a number of health system issues which include health system structure, health care financing, health human resource, management and leadership, concepts of organization etc. both from the country and global perspective. To make the sessions interactive, all the participants were engaged in active discussion and opinion sharing.

The second phase (1 week) of the course was conducted in ICDDR,B. Students shared final reports of their research on different health related issues carried out in consultation with the course supervisor Professor Anwar Islam. Sharing of these problem based research findings generated extensive debate and helped identify key health system issues in Bangladesh. Lectures given by the experts from different public health fields further enriched the course.

The course was finished with a closing ceremony where every participant was awarded certificates. Dr. Salehuddin, Pro Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and Dr. Hubert P Endtz, acting Executive Director of ICDDR, B were also present during the session. Dr. Masuma Akter Khanam, on behalf of the participants, thanked the course organizers and mentors for the successful completion of the course.

Faculty Update

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor was invited as guest lecturer to teach in the Masters program of 'Health and Society: International Gender Studies, at Berlin, Charite - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Campus Virchow-Klinikum from march 18-29. This is her second year of teaching at this university.

Student Affairs- Co-Curricular Activities

BRAC University Football Club

Intra-University Football Tournament-2008

The Grand Final of INTRA University Football Tournament-2008 held on 22nd March at TARC-Savar Ground.

Honorable Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury was present as the Chief Guest of the event. Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed was also present as Special Guest to watch the match. The finalists were Summer-04 and Fall-04, the senior most batches of the university. Summer-04 has got the championship by eliminating their rival Fall-04 by 4-3 (Tie-Breaker). It was 0-0 for both of the halves of first 60 minutes and additional 20 minutes. After the match Honorable VC, Pro-VC and Mr. Mahmood Hasan, Registrar distributed the prizes among the participants. Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Advisor, FCBU and Senior Lecturer, BBS & Ms. Syeda Rowan Afza, Lecturer, BBS was also present in the prize giving ceremony. A.B.M Saiful Bari from Fall-04 was awarded as the "Man of The Tournament" and "Highest Scorer of the Tournament" while Muhammad Abdul Hakim Shaon from Summer-04 was awarded as "Man of The Final".

BIZ BEE

BIZBEE's Orientation Program for the Freshers 08 Inauguration of Club Website

On the 12th February 2008, BIZ BEE organized a Fresher's Welcoming Session for the current Spring 08 semester. The honorable Dean of BRAC Business School, Mr. Iftekhhar Gani Chowdhury was the chief guest in the program. The Advisor & Co-Advisor of this club Ms. Syeda Shaharbanu Shahbazi Ahmed and Ms. Sabina Khan along with the existing BIZ BEE members, were present in this charming program. A regular BIZ BEE member Mr. Abdullah Tahir Chowdhury introduced BIZ BEE to the newcomers and just after that our Dean did the official inauguration of the BIZ BEE website (www.bizbee.tk). He also presented a short but precious speech where he praised the earlier activities of BIZ BEE and added some words of encouragement for the freshers. After that another two members of Biz Bee explained the various aspects and activities of this club to date and answered the queries of freshers. Then, the advisor & co-advisor in their pithy but exhilarating speech emphasized on team spirit, loyalty, dedication and self-confidence. Moreover, they gave away prizes to the winners of instant quiz competition that was held on last Club Fair-Spring 2008. In addition to that, to make the freshers feel like part of the club our advisors also assigned some work to them under qualified mentors who have been working for BIZ BEE for years. In all, this was a successful interactive session for all BIZ BEE members, which once again boosted the unity of the club.

BIZ BEE Seminar on CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility)

BIZ BEE Along with the cooperation of BBS Faculty, Ms. Afsana Akhter arranged a seminar on CSR on 13th March, 2008 at 2:00 PM at UB403. Ms. Mononita Syed Haq, Senior Manager, Unilever Bangladesh conducted the seminar. After giving a brief background of Unilever Bangladesh, Ms. Haq demonstrated the role, scope and the importance of CSR in an organization in the society. Then she directly focused on the CSR activities so far conducted by different brands of Unilever Bangladesh. Some of these activities are Lifeboy Floating Hospital, Close-up One- in search of singers, Fair & Lovely Scholarship for poor students, Scholarship for meritorious student along with British Council, establishing Asian University for Women and lots more. Among the audience, Ms. Afsana Akhter, Lecturer BRAC Business School and Ms. Syeda Shaharbanu Shahbazi Ahmed, Advisor, BIZ BEE, were also present. The video clippings within the presentation helped the students and all the others present to expand their horizon of understanding the topic. The Question- Answer session at the end of the seminar was the most interesting part where the audience could know more about the CSR and Branding of Unilever. The goal of this informative event was accomplished and the seminar ended with our regular closing formality of refreshment.

BRAC University Cultural Club

Traveling Through Songs

BUCuC and Angan, Architecture Department jointly organized a demonstration Lecture or Jalsha 'Travelling Through Songs' by the renowned singer by Moushumi Bhowmik on Thursday 20 March 2008. Moushumi Bhowmik performed modern Bangla songs, of a distinct style, sometimes with a touch of folk tunes and mostly transmitting messages on social issues, such as her famous song 'Jessore road'.

Extremely articulate, she spoke eloquently, with many live and recorded songs on her journey through music of different parts of Bengal, the subcontinent and other parts of the world. This was based on a five-year long in-depth research on anthropology and music. She showed relationships of the American blues to our bhatiali, and Sylhet tea garden worker songs with music of Rajasthan village women, and so on. These connections were made through tunes, lyrics, themes and beats. Again, to many, it was an eye opener on how the landscape and a sense of place can be captured within and be discovered through the music of a place.

ST 801 studio was packed, and the audience spilled over to the lobby and the cafe area. The Jalsha was attended by students, teachers, staff and invited guests. BUCuC and Angan hope to get her again some day

enriching a larger audience at BRACU.

BRAC University Film Club

Celebration of Women's Day

On occasion of Women's Day, BUFC arranged a movie show which was dedicated for women. The movie that was screened was Mona Lisa Smile. The show got a good amount of audiences, both boys and girls.

General Body Meeting

BUFC had its first general body meeting of this semester on 18th. Previously, departmental meetings were called where members of the respective departments assembled in the respective departmental meetings. So this meeting was called to bring all the enthusiastic new members under one roof and talk and discuss with them about the upcoming events. They were assignment with their first task and that was to organize a charity show for Emu, the girl who needs money for her bone marrow transplantation. Discussions on how they can do it and details were explained to them in this meeting.

Movie Show for Emu

This was the first official task that was assigned to the freshmen in the general body meeting. On 25th, they successfully and efficiently arranged the whole day movie show in the indoor games room. Since the movie show was organized to collect money for Emu, ticket booth was set up in the cafe few days before the movie show. Respond from everyone to buy the ticket was overwhelming. "Onno Zoddha", "Lage Raho Munna Bhai" and "Pirates of the Caribbea - at world's end" were screened. Overall, it was a great event both in terms of movie show and in terms of the main motive of this event - to collect donation for Emu which was more than expected. And last but not the least, all the credits for this event goes to the hard working freshers who made this event a reality and possible.

Da Circle

More than twenty events were arranged this semester by BUFC. And to celebrate this success, BUFC arranged an event named "Da Circle - where everyone becomes one". The main motive behind this event was to inspire and motive the freshers to be more active and dedicated towards the club. Various presentations were shown and there were many activities. There were game shows like - draw and explain. They were also asked to present a group acting/song. The last activity included planning an event and explaining to the rest of the people. The program was ended by a cultural performance. Our honorable director of student affairs madam was also present at a point of our event which was a great honor for us.

This was one of the biggest events arranged by BUFC not only in this semester but in its history.

AIIESEC

LC Camp out 08

AIIESEC in BRAC University had a day out starting from the 13th March 2008 (Thursday) and ending on the 15th March 2008 (Saturday) in Elenga Resort, Tangail. A few of us (the elected Vice Presidents and the current VPs) went to Tangail on Thursday and they had several sessions on that day regarding the transition agenda of the new VPs. The rest of the members joined in on Friday and we had a few sessions and played a lots of games to have a great time altogether. We also went to visit the Jamuna Bridge on that evening. After a great day and night altogether, the whole team of AIIESEC in BRAC University returned to Dhaka on Saturday afternoon using the two requisite buses. All in all, the weekend was a very helpful plan as the new Vice Presidents got to have a whole evening long session that were necessary for their transition as VPs and as all the members of AIIESEC got to enjoy the weekend altogether and, thus, help the members get a better understanding about each other.

Meet the leaders

The first ever MTL organized by AIIESEC in BRAC University, has paved the path to a success for such future endavoures. The special guest being the Managing Director of INCEPTA Pharmaceuticals. It has been a great experience and participation of students and faculty in this event. The event had been successfully arranged by AIIESEC and with full support and co-operation of BRAC university.

Student Affairs Office

Independence Day Celebration

Student Affairs Office organized a colorful "Independence Day Rally" with all Clubs and forums on March 26, 2008. Lead by Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, Chairperson, MNS Department, around 100 faculties, staffs and students from different clubs and forums participated at Independence Day Rally to the National Memorial at Savar. The rally to the National Memorial generated a lot of enthusiasm and fervor among the students and was conducted successfully.

BUSEF

Interior design of 'Dolna', the day care center of BRAC

The student members of BUSEF Samiur Rahman Tushar, Quamrul Hasan Robin, A.B.M Nayeem, Fahmidul Islam Anik and Md. Atiqul Alam worked on the interior decoration of the new floor of 'Dolna', the day care center for the children of employees of BRAC Head Office and BRAC University. The opening of the new floors was held on Monday 31st March 2008 at 10.30am. Ms. Sheepa Hafiz, Director Human Resources, BRAC, Dr. Zainab Faruqui Ali, Director Student Affairs BRACU, day care staff, guardians, BUSEF members, along with the most important participants of the occasion, the children were present at the colorful event.

BRACU - RS

Social -lab Exercise

The Social-lab Exercise of the Residential Semester was held on March 15 and 2008. All the students of the campus participated in the exercise. In this unique exercise, the students performed the roles of different actors of Residential Semester of TARC starting from the Campus Super down to Cleaners and Laundry persons. The students were assigned different roles of Campus Super, Services Manager, Accountant, Librarian, Health Assistant, Office Assistant, Telephone Operator, Store Keeper, Cook, Waiter, Dish Washer, Room Attendant, Cleaner, Laundry person, Construction worker, Grass cutter, Earth Cutter, and Labors. The exercise created a lot of enthusiasm among the students and the exercise was conducted successfully. A reflection session was held in the afternoon after completing works. In that session, all the students said that they have enjoyed the exercise and tried to learn the pain and hopes of the roles. They commented, "No work is less important and easy to do. We must respect each and every works in our life and valued the persons involved in. From now onward, we will try to respect and value the contribution of everybody working surrounding us."

RS Dinner

The RS Dinner of the semester was held on March 12, 2008. Ms. Luna Shamsuddoha, Director of Dhoatc was the Guest of Honor. The guest gave a speech on professional career development and conducted the question-answer session. A brief presentation on the BRACU residential semester was made by Mrs. Sayeda Sarwat Abed, Director CfL. On behalf of the students, Ameeruddin Zain, the Semester Secretary received the guest and gave welcome speech. The Campus Super concluded the session with vote of thanks to the guest of honour and others. Rudmila Ahmed students of BBS and Abu Hamid Md. Ismail of ECE jointly facilitated the session. The session was followed by a diner party.

Museum visit

The students of Residential Semester Spring 2008 visited the National Museum and Muktijoddha Museum on 22.03.2008. The students were divided into two groups for in-depth observation of the places. The students were guided by the Teachers and House Tutors. Based on the observations, the students gave a presentation and submitted their reports to the concerned Faculty.

Athletics The inter-dorm athletics competition was held among the girls and boys dorms on 13th & 27th March. Surjorosmi (Girls' dorm) and Nikunjo (Boys dorm) both dorm became the champion and Maloncho (Boys' dorm) & Surjalok (girls dorm) both were the runners up. Md. Asif Imteaz & Anne Drong were the best athletes of RS Spring '08.

Observed Independence Day

The Independence Day was observed with various colorful events where students and staff spontaneously participated. The day started with hoisting the national flag at 08:45 AM. Then the sports competition (Indigenous games like cock fight, kanamachi, Bouchhi, Ha-Do-Do, etc.) started and continued up to Lunch. After the lunch the cultural functions started at 4:30 pm and finished followed by an improved dinner.

Debate Competition

The debate competition was held on March 23rd and 24th March, 2008 between the Dorms. Nikunjo (boys dorm) was the champion & Surjoroshmi (girls dorm) was the runner-up. Ameeruddin zain, (BBS) leader of Nikunjo (boy's dorm) team was adjudged the Best Debater.

Quiz Competition

A quiz competition was held at Markuli Hall, BU Campus, Savar between the teams of all four dorms on March 14, 2008 organized by EDF.

Parents Day

In the afternoon of March 26th, 2008, BRACU/RS organized a "Parents day" for the parents/guardians of the students of spring 2008. Pro-VC warmly welcomed the parents and facilitated an informal session with the parents. It was a one-hour session and 150 parents/guardians attended in the session. The House Tutors, Lab Tutors, Librarian, Services Manager of TARC were present in the session. A brief picture of the residential semester was presented by the Campus Super and facilitated the question-answer session. The parents had free time to interact with their children and visit the campus. Also they visited the students dorms and enjoyed a cultural program organized by the students on the independence day. Most of the guardians expressed their feelings and gave positive opinion about the RS and their children's performance. Some of the parents recommended increasing the duration of RS at Savar. It was realized that the parents consider the RS as an effective learning through a process of life education. It was understood that they are very much happy with this initiative to have a "Parents day" with them. Also they are happy with the RS and its activities. The "parent's day" was a successful event for the RS. It will hopefully help building a bridge between parents/guardians and the BRACU which will lead to influence them acting as ambassadors for BRAC University.

Newsletter Activity

The two issues of Activity Newsletter of RS Semester at BU Campus, Savar were published on March 20 and March 31, 2008. Each of the four dorms brought out colorful, innovative and ingenious publications. In the first issue Surjoroshmi dorm's Newsletters and the 2nd issue Maloncho Dorm's Newsletter were considered as the best.

Cricket: Girls

On March 13, the inter dorm girls cricket competition was held among the girls dorms. Surjoroshmi became champion by defeating Surjolok. Farzana Rifat became the best cricketer of the RS semester spring '08.

Volleyball

On March 14 the inter-dorm volleyball competition was held among the boys Dorms. Maloncho (boys dorm) became champion by defeating Nikunjo. Herok was the best volleyball player of RS spring '08.

CFL Activities

El-Pro organized various co-curricular activities during this month. These included sessions on pottery, fruits and vegetable carving, , cooking, glass painting, Thai class and Yoga . March 27 and 28, 2008 were used, as El-Pro Weekend, during the two days.

In addition, on Friday there was a one-day long seminar on Nutrition & grooming and on Saturday seminar on DRUG by Brother Donald. The students took active part in all Cfl activities. These had generated much enthusiasm among the students.