

2008/june

BRAC EDF's Rendezvous with Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed

Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF) of BRAC Business School, BRAC University organized the mega event "Meet the Best Social Entrepreneur" on the 18th June, 2008 at BRAC Centre INN. This was the first time ever in the history of BRAC University, or any other university for the matter to award Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed and commemorating him as the Best Social Entrepreneur of the World. Accompanied by BRAC University's honorable Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed and the honorable Dean of BRAC Business School Professor Iftekhar Ghani Chowdhury, Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed shared words of encouragement and his experiences with the students present there. The function was anchored by EDF's third President, Abdullah Tahir Chowdhury, and the Writing and Publication Director Rudmila Ahmed and the Head Facilitator of the event was Iftekhar-Ul-Karim, International Relations and Communications Director of EDF. BRAC Entrepreneurship Development Forum is proud to have hosted and organized such an event, as they have brought one of the best social entrepreneurs of this world to the BRACU students. The students present at the gathering were given the opportunity to personally interact with Mr. Abed. They asked questions about entrepreneurial activities both in home and abroad, shared their feelings, and extracted information from the dialogue. As EDF builds leaders to lead the future, it sets an example to achieve by inviting a true social entrepreneur to inspire us all.

From the Desk of PRO

VC as Keynote speaker at "Bangladesh Conference" at Harvard University

A two-day conference on "Bangladesh in the 21st century" began at the Centre of Government and International Studies (CGIS) of Harvard University on June 13, 2008.

The inaugural session of the conference was addressed by Bangladesh Ambassador to USA Humayun Kabir, Director of the Ash Institute Dr Gowher Rizvi, Professor of Harvard Extension School Kazi F Jalal, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury and Professor of Black School of Business of the Pennsylvania State University Dr Saad Andaleeb.

As a keynote speaker, Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury said despite impediments, development of Bangladesh is encouraging in different sectors including poverty alleviation and disaster management. He said during the post-independence period Bangladesh has been able to overcome several critical times. This time also, although through a critical process, Bangladesh will be able to reach its target.

Ambassador Farooq Sobhan from BEI and Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman chaired two sessions on Bangladesh's foreign policy and foreign relations and democracy and security policy. Ambassador Humayun Kabir in his speech said three things-- democracy, technology and globalisation--will control our lives in the 21st century. Ensuring these three things Bangladesh can become a middle income country, he added.

Former secretary Mashiur Rahman and eminent economist and executive director of BRAC Dr Mahabub Hossain also spoke, among others. Other distinguished speakers at the conference are Dr Rounaq Jahan from Columbia University and Mamun Rashid, managing director and Citibank country officer, Bangladesh.

A host of Bangladeshi scholars from home and abroad presented papers on various issues pertinent to politics, democracy, economy and growth challenges Bangladesh facing in the 21st century. Many Americans, including representative from US State Department, also attended the conference.

Harvard Kennedy School, Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Bangladesh Development Initiative, and Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum jointly organized the conference.

English and Humanities

Visit to Dhaka bookshops

As a part of the course Eng 115: Introduction to English Prose, students were taken to visit various book

shops of Dhaka on June 7, 2008. The purpose of this visit was to introduce them to the different resources available and to acquaint them with the vast realm of books. The students under the supervision of Aroop Saha, Teaching Assistant, ENH, and Nurul Ahad, DCO, ENH. The students visited Words n Pages in Gulshan, Friends Book Corner in Nilkhet, and various book shops in New Market and Aziz Super Market.

Guest lecture on American Poetry by Professor Niaz Zaman

Professor Niaz Zaman delivered a guest lecture titled "Feminism in the Works of Three American Poets" on June 11, 2008. The lecture was given as part of the course ENG 366: Major Texts of the Feminist Tradition in the West. Professor Niaz Zaman, an eminent scholar, editor and translator, recently retired from the Department of English, University of Dhaka. In the lecture, she discussed the feminist aspects of the writings of Emily Dickinson, Sylvia Plath, and Adrienne Rich, focusing on the socio-political background of the poets and how it shaped their poetry. Students and faculty members of ENH attended and enjoyed the lecture.

Two Faculty Members present a paper at Jahangirnagar University

Nazia Husain and Mohammad Mahmudul Haque, Lecturers from the Department of English and Humanities of BRAC University presented a paper on the 21st of June, 2008, the second day of a 2-day long conference 'english4today', arranged by the Department of English of Jahangirnagar University, Savar. Based on a case study, the paper titled, 'MI in Action - Exploring the Possibilities', weighs the potentials of Multiple Intelligences, an adapted language teaching approach, in the context of Bangladesh.

Architecture

Participation in the UK-South Asia Young Scientists and Practitioners Seminar on Climate Change and Disaster Impact Reduction

Disaster and Development Centre (DDC), Northumbria University, UK organized the UK-South Asia Young Scientists and Practitioners Seminar on Climate Change and Disaster Impact Reduction on 05-06 June, 2008 in Kathmandu. Climatic disaster risk reduction scientists and practitioners from Bangladesh, Brazil, Turkey, Nepal, India, Japan, Costa Rica and the United Kingdom presented papers on different themes. Professor Fuad H Mallick, Director, PPDM, Mohammad Aminur Rahman, Research Assistant, PPDM and Ms. Tahmina Rahman, Student, PPDM attended the seminar from BRAC University and presented individual papers.

In the first day's special session Professor Fuad presented his paper titled "Climate Change and Disaster Management Education: Issues Arising". Mohammad Aminur Rahman spoke about climate change and its tentative impacts on Dhaka city while Tahmina Rahman focussed on climate change and related issues considering the fishing community of Dublar Char, the Sundarbans.

This event was organized as part of the DelpHE project which is funded and supported by DFID and the British Council. PPDM of BRAC University is the Bangladesh counterpart of this project.

Lecture by Khairul Anam Shakeel

As a part of arc293:Music Appreciation course there was a demonstration lecture on 'Nazrul Geeti' by renowned artist Khairul Anam Shakeel on Monday 23 June, 2008 at CB 902 at 5pm. He rendered various types of songs. Students and the audience experienced Nazruls's unique styles blended with the traditional fusions. He is also attached with Chayanaut, one of the most traditional schools of music in Bangladesh. It turned into a wonderful musical evening when he rendered some songs from the audience requests.

Study trip to Mymensingh

The students of 5th semester of architecture department, set off for the Bangladesh Agriculture University at Mymensingh accompanied by course teachers, Rahat M Niaz and Muhammad Nafisur Rahman, as part of their study trip. Students studied various academic buildings and master plans designed by the renowned international architect Paul Rudolph. The students also experienced the Brahmaputra river adjacent to the campus. They also visited the Zainul Abedin Museum.

Institute of Governance Studies

The Institute held two separate workshops to enhance capacity of civil servants. The workshop on 'E-government Readiness' was organised by the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC), UNDP and the Institute. It was hosted by the International Training Complex at BPATC, Savar. The Institute

collaborated with the 'Strengthening Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (Phase II)' project to organise the 'International Workshop on Negotiation and Conflict Management' hosted by the International Training Complex, BPATC, Savar.

Mr Manzoor Hasan visited George Washington University, USA as a visiting scholar from the Institute. He also attended a conference in London 'Bangladesh: The Prospects and Means for Strengthening Democracy' with support from World Bank from 23-25th June, 2008.

Mathematics and Natural Sciences

International Biotechnology Conference 7-8 June, 2008

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Dr. Aparna Islam participated in the International Biotechnology Conference 2008 organized by the Bangladesh Association for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (BABGE). The Conference was held at the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC), Dhaka on 7-8 June 2008. Scientists and researchers from home and abroad affiliated with different R&D institutions and universities attended the Conference. Theme of this conference was "Biotechnology for food security, renewable energy and poverty alleviation".

Professor Choudhury chaired a Plenary Session where plenary lectures were presented by Dr. Robert Potter (Senior Associate, AgBios, Canada), Professor S. A. Samad (MITS Engineering College, India) and Dr. Nazib Ahsan (Post-doctoral Fellow, Tsukuba University, Japan). Dr. Aparna Islam presented a paper entitled "Isolation, Characterization and Preliminary Risk Assessments of a Novel Antifungal Defensin Peptide from Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.)" at the Scientific Session "Genetic Engineering, Biosafety and Concerns". During discussion session emphasis was given on continuation of the present work in the context of Bangladesh. Issues like importance of public-private-partnership and an optimal utilization of National Institute of Biotechnology (NIB) also were emphasized by the participants. Dr. Islam informed the audience about BRAC University's initiatives in this regard.

Workshop on Medical Biotechnology 8-9 June 2008

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the Workshop on Medical Biotechnology organized by the National Committee on Medical Biotechnology, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh held at the IPH Auditorium, Mohakhali. Professor Choudhury presented a paper on Government Initiatives in Biotechnology including Medical Biotechnology. He was the Chief Guest of the Concluding Session and distributed certificates to the participants from different medical colleges, hospitals, clinics and officials of the Health Ministry of GOB.

Math Olympiad (IUMO) 2008

Nine students from BRAC University participated in the Interuniversity Math Olympiad (IUMO) 2008 organized by and held at East West University, Dhaka on June 21, 2008. About 60 students from different public and private universities of the country took part in the competition. Sudipto Amin (ID No. 06211001), majoring in Physics in the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences obtained the 5th position among the top ten contestants. The Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences feels proud for this achievement and congratulates Sudipto Amin for this laudable feat. The Department of Mathematics and Natural sciences also acknowledges with thanks the contribution made to BRACU Team's effort by the coach of the team Mr. Md. Maruf Ahmed, Lecturer of Mathematics at the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, BRACU.

24th Annual Conference of Bangladesh Society of Microbiologists 28 June 2008

The 24th Annual Conference of the Bangladesh Society of Microbiologists was held at IFST Auditorium, BCSIR. This year, the theme of the conference was "Microbes in the Food and Environment". Professor Naiyyum Choudhury presented the keynote paper "Microbes in Food and Beverages" at the Conference.

The Closing and Certificate Award Ceremony of the Fifth Training Course on Oceanography: Principles and Applications

The Closing and Certificate Award Ceremony of the Fifth Training Course on Oceanography: Principles and Applications was held on Monday, June 30, 2008 at 11 a.m. at the Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka (ACED). Professor Abdul Matin Patwari, Former Vice-Chancellor, BUET and D.G. IIT (IUT), OIC and at present the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Asia Pacific, Dhaka was the Chief Guest at the function presided over by

Professor A.A. Z. Ahmad, Chairman of National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI). Rear Admiral (Retd.) M.H. Khan, Founder Chairman of NOAMI and its Chief Adviser also spoke on the occasion.

The 3-month long training course was organized by NOAMI and funded by the Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology, GOB. The course comprised about 100 lectures of one-hour duration each covering all aspects of oceanography and pertinent topics, be it physical oceanography, geological oceanography, biological oceanography, chemical oceanography, ocean engineering, marine pollution or law of the seas.

There were twenty participants from different R/D institutions of the country both in the public and private sectors. Thirty noted scientists and researchers drawn from various R/D institutions and universities of the country acted as a resource persons. Professor A.A.Z. Ahmad and Professor Naiyyum Choudhury also gave lectures respectively on physics and biotechnology topics related to oceanography.

Faculty Member Left for Higher Studies

Iftekhar Mohammad Shafiqul Kalam, Faculty of MNS Department left for higher studies in Australia. He got an Endeavour Post Graduate Award 2008 scholarship sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) to study for Master of Population Studies at Australian National University (ANU), Canberra, Australia.

Economics and Social Sciences

ESS Faculty member gets Asian Fellowship

Mr. Kamrul Hasan, Lecturer, ESS received ASIA Fellows Award 2008-09. This award is offered to mid-level professionals from Asian countries to strengthen ties among Asian scholars and enhance Asian Studies in Asia (ASIA). On June 27-28, 2008 Mr. Hasan attended the Orientation Program organized by Bangkok-based organization Asian Scholarship Foundation for Asian Fellows (cohort 10) in Bangkok, Thailand. At the Orientation Program, he gave a briefing on his proposed research project "Living With HIV/AIDS: A Study of Social Attitudes and Reactions Towards HIV-Positive People in Northern Thailand" which will be conducted in Thailand for nine months and for which Mr. Hasan has been awarded the fellowship.

Mr. Hasan also attended an international conference on 'Sheltered States, Troubled People, Threatened Cultures: Contemporary Challenge and Prospects for Asia's Change-Makers' during 25-26 June, 2008 held the same venue.

ESS Seminar Series: Pre- Budget Seminar by Dr. Atiur Rahman

The Department of Economics and Social Sciences arranged a seminar titled 'Reflection on Budget 2008-09', on June 15, 2009, at ESS Conference Room. Professor Atiur Rahman, Chairman of "Shamunnay was the main speaker of that seminar. Professor Rahman discussed the perspectives and the features of upcoming national budget 2008-09. He also pointed out the current macroeconomic problems facing Bangladesh and some recommendations for the budget on the basis of these problems. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRACU, faculty members and students of ESS were present in the seminar. In a lively question answer session followed by the presentation, Dr. Rahman gave answer to the student's questions.

Museum Visit by the Students of Bangladesh Studies

On June 07, 2008, a total 95 students of the course of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) went to visit Liberation War Museum and National Museum of Bangladesh as part of their academic activities. Students were divided into two groups and both groups visited the two museums by rotation. Department of ESS organized the museum visit to enlighten BRACU students with the history and culture of Bangladesh. On the day of the visit, authority of Liberation War Museum arranged a documentary film show and a quiz competition on Liberation War for the students. Mr. Tuhin Roy and Mr. Iftekhairul Karim, teaching assistants of ESS supervised the program.

Other Seminar Participation

Dr. Manjur Karim, Associate Professor, ESS was the speaker in a seminar titled 'Jute Sector and the Effectiveness of Economic Policy' on June 29, 2009, at Press Club, VIP Lounge. The seminar was organized by 'Nagorik Shonghoti' a local Non Government Organization of Bangladesh.

School of Public Health

MPH Programme

The MPH students completed their Health Economics and Health Care Financing course this month which began on May 25th, 2008 and was completed on June 5th, 2008. The course was taught by Kent Ranson and Damian Walker. Shafiun N Shimul served as a teaching assistant for the course. The students also completed the module on Environment, Health and Climate Change, which began on June 8th, 2008 and was completed on June 26th, 2008 following which the students would be on vacation till July 10th, 2008. The course was taught by Bilqis Amin Hoque, Joe Graziano as the main faculty. Tanvir Ahmed served as a teaching assistant for the course.

Cultural Evening by MPH 4th Batch at Markuly Auditorium

The 4th Batch MPH students organized a farewell cultural program on June 22nd, 2008, at Markuly Auditorium, Savar TARC. The students dedicated the cultural evening to bid good bye to Savar TARC on the eve of successful completion of the first part of their MPH Program. All members of the BRAC School of Public Health (BSPH) were invited along with their family.

It was a multi-cultural presentation featuring harmony of different cultural streams. Both under graduate and graduate students of various nationalities took part in the program. MPH Program Coordinator, Dr. Shahaduz Zaman performed a touchy song featuring the never ending grievances and sufferings of the underprivileged people. The event ended with a dinner party.

Students Participate in Budget Symposium

Taufiqul Islam Joarder and Nuzhat Chowdhury of MPH 4th batch, with the mentorship of Shafiun N Shimul, Lecturer, BSPH, presented their analysis of the health sector budget for the fiscal year 2008-2009 proposed by the Government at a Budget Analysis Symposium held on June 16th, 2008. This event was jointly organized by Dhaka University Management Club and Profile of Bengal - an online archive of Bengal's history. Seven teams from four universities participated at the Symposium. Their recommendation was reviewed by an expert panel and was submitted for consideration to the Finance Advisor.

Events

Workshop on Engendering the Health System in Bangladesh: Challenges and Prospects

A workshop on engendering the health system in Bangladesh was conducted from May 25th - June 5th, 2008. With an objective of strengthening the health system further through capacity building of the health professionals, "Engendering the Health System in Bangladesh: Challenges and Prospects", was a unique short term workshop organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), with overall supported from the BSPH. It was the first collaborative effort between the School and the MOHFW. Dr. Anwar Islam, Professor, BSPH, Professor S M Humayun Kabir, Assistant Professor of Public Administration, University of Chittagong took the course forward. Sabiha Sadik, assisted him in teaching. Mr. Md Jahangir, Joint Chief and in charge of Health Economics Unit, MOHFW, was the overall Coordinator of the workshop.

The workshop concentrated on issues such as: concept of engendering; key issues in engendering the health system in Bangladesh; different approaches in engendering; stakeholders and their role in this process; understanding and combating gender-based violence and other relevant issues.

Dr. Anwar Islam conducting the Workshop

The workshop ended with a certificate distribution ceremony attended by the Secretary of Health, Hon'ble Dr. AKM Zafar Ullah Khan who also presented the certificates. Dr. AMR Chowdhury, Dean of BSPH, Faruque Ahmed, Head of the BRAC Health Program and Dr. Abbas Bhuiya, Head, Social and Behavioural Science Unit, ICDDR,B joined the Secretary at the Certificate giving ceremony.

Knowledge Fair

A knowledge fair was organized on June 7th, 2008 at the BRAC University. The purpose of the Knowledge Fair was to bring together potential supervisors and the MPH students so that they can interact and exchange knowledge about each other's research interests. The fair also served as an opportunity to share with the students, draft of the thesis guideline.

Launch of State of Health in Bangladesh 2007

BRAC School of Public Health, which acts as the secretariat of the Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW), organized the launching ceremony of a report titled "Health workforce in Bangladesh: Who Constitutes the Healthcare System?" on June 14th, 2008 at the Sasakawa Auditorium of ICDDR,B. The study was conducted and the report was prepared by the Bangladesh Health Watch.

Bangladesh Health Watch is a civil society initiative. It was formed with the objective of monitoring Bangladesh's progress towards achievement of the goal of good health for all its citizens. The Watch publishes on a yearly basis a report on the state of health in Bangladesh. It also uses other monitoring and advocacy measures such as conferences, meetings, press briefings and media reports to engage all key stakeholders in the health sector. The Centre for Health Systems Studies at the School has been chosen as the Secretariat for the Watch. The Watch formally launched their first report 'The State of Health in Bangladesh 2006 -Challenges of Achieving Equity in Health' on December 2006. For the year 2007, BHW has focused on the situation of the 'Health workforce in Bangladesh' and has undertaken several studies on the issues of human resources for health.

Distinguished Speakers hold copies of the BHW study report at its launching ceremony at Sasakawa auditorium

The chief guest for the occasion was Dr. AMM Shawkat Ali, Hon'ble adviser, MOHFW, Government of Bangladesh. Other special guests included Dr. Halida Hanum Akhter, Member of Advisory Group, BHW and Director General, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB). Hon'ble Dr. AKM Zafar Ullah Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Dr. Timothy Evans, Assistant Director General of World Health Organization. Mr. FH Abed, Founder and Chairperson, BRAC, chaired the event. Dr. Abbas Bhuiya of ICDDR,B, convener of the Working Group shared key findings from the 2007 Report and Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Coordinator of the Secretariat gave the welcome address at the launch. The reports can be accessed and downloaded at the School's website: <http://sph.bracu.ac.bd>

Seminar

Dr. Raihan Jamil from the Purdue University, USA presented a seminar on 'Informative Presentation', on June 29th, 2008 at the BSPH Conference Room. Members of the BSPH attended the talk and gained an insight on the importance and the process of presentational and Informative speaking.

Faculty News

The School said goodbye to three of its members this month: Tarique Mohd Nurul Huda and Dr. Kausar Iqbal, both Research Associates at the School, and Robin Heffernan, Coordinator of the EU-Asia Link Project. Their service and commitment to the School was immensely appreciated and the School wishes them success.

New Staff

The School had two new members joining its team this month. The School welcomes Shahanoor Akter Chowdhury and Nahitun Naher on board its team.

Shahanoor Akter Chowdhury, joined the School on June 1st, 2008 as a Senior Research Associate in "Realising Rights: Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health in Poor and Vulnerable Populations" Research Programme Consortium. She completed her BSS Honours in Anthropology in 1997 and MSS in the same discipline in 1998 from Dhaka University. Shahanoor also attended Amsterdam Master's In Medical Anthropology (AMMA) at the University of Amsterdam with a fellowship from NUFFIC and graduated in 2008. Just before joining BSPH, she worked as a Senior Research Officer in Social and Behavioural Sciences Unit, ICDDR, B. She also worked in Jaijaidin Protidin, PROSHIKA, Democracy Watch and UNDP-Dhaka. Her areas of interest are gender, health, and development.

Dr. Nahitun Naher Nahin, joined the School as Research Associate on June 5th, 2008. Dr. Nahin, completed her MBBS in 2003. She did her Masters on MQI (Health Care Quality Improvement and Leadership Development) in 2007 from University Of Helsinki, Finland. Before post graduation, she worked as a Medical Officer in various clinics in Bangladesh. Her area of interest is Health Care Quality.

Faculty Activities

Dr. Shahaduz Zaman, Coordinator MPH Programme, taught 'Health and Development' in the 'DevPro

Programme'. This is a programme for BRAC programme managers organized by the training division at BRAC.

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor, BSPH and member of the National Women Forum on HIV/AIDS (established by UNAIDS in Bangladesh) attended the third general meeting on June 9th, 2008 to discuss possible ways to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh.

Mr. Ilias Mahmud, Lecturer, BSPH, presented a paper titled, 'Sexual and reproductive health concerns of married men and access to services in a rural area of Bangladesh' in June at the Bangladesh Public Health Conference, 2008.

Dr. Farah M Ahmed, Continuing Education Officer, facilitated a session on Maternal and Child Health in Bangladesh, where she presented a case study in the course on Engendering the Health System in Bangladesh, on June 4th, 2008.

Other News

New Premises of the School

The BSPH this month expanded into a new space, where the School of Law was previously located, to accommodate its growing members. The new space is adjacent to the original BSPH premise.

Annual Report 2007 Published

The School has recently published its Annual Report for the year 2007-2008. It can be accessed at the School's website: <http://sph.bracu.ac.bd>

Career Services

Internship placement Report

Internship placements of 51 BBA students for summer 2008 have been completed. Our star Employers are

Organization | No of Placement

HSBC | 9

British American Tobacco Bangladesh | 5

Prime Bank Ltd. | 5

Grameenphone | 4

Dhaka bank Ltd. | 3

Job Placement Report

Our heartiest congratulations to our students who have secured job at the following organizations successfully;

1. Shamir Hashem MTO at BRAC Bank
2. Israt Jahan Evana MTO at BRAC Bank
3. Gazi Raavi Hafiz Prime Bank Ltd.
4. MD. Al-Amin Sardar SK-F
5. MD. Arif Hussain SK-F
6. Nusrat Jerin Khan Banglalink (Corporate Sales)
7. Faria Tasnim Banglalink (Corporate sales)
8. Sanjida Afroze SSD Tech Ltd.
9. Maruf Shahjahan MT at Eastern Bank Ltd.
10. MD. Anamul Hasan Dhaka Bank Ltd.
11. Rubama Ahmed Niru Mango Telecommunication

On-campus career workshop with JobStreet.Com

On Thursday, June 19, 2008, Job Street.Com has conducted an hour long workshop jointly with Career Services at BRACU campus. The session was conducted by Mr. Khu Wei Ren, Regional Sales Manager. He focused on the Human Resource Management policies and recruitment dimensions of multinational companies. The workshop included discussion on techniques of facing interviews, CV writing, corporate etiquettes and many other issues. Active participation of students made the session very interactive as well as informative. Jobstreet.com has expressed their interest to have an ongoing collaboration with Career Services, BRACU in assisting our students availing career in different sectors.

Session on presentation skills

To improve the presentation skills of students, CSO has organized a seminar on "Introduction to Presentational Speaking" on June 26, Thursday 2008. Raihan Jamil, Ph.D student of Purdue University, Indiana, USA lead the seminar and talked about different ways of being of a good speaker in front of audiences. He shared his views and ideas among the participating students.

Seminar by Canadian High Commission

To give a wide view on higher education for prospective students willing to pursue education abroad. Career Services in collaboration with Public Affairs of High Commission of CANADA organized a seminar on "Study Higher education in CANADA" at AH 903 on Thursday, June 26, 2008. Ms Shaheen Islam, Sr. Academics, Public Affairs Advisor emphasized on the prospect of higher education, choice of program, getting students visa and scholarship along with career growth and many other issues. An interactive question/answer session was followed after the seminar.

Student Affairs

Global Affairs Forum

Global Affairs Forum of BRAC University has successfully organized the voting campaign event named "Vote for Bangladesh, Vote for Cox's Bazar". With the purpose of doing something for our country the members of GAFBU arranged this two day (June 10th and June 11th) long event. We set up booth in the BU Cafeteria and collected 480 votes for Cox's Bazar to make it as one of the 7 natural wonders of the world. We also did power point presentation to aware the students and faculties of BRAC so that they give more votes.

BUFC

INTROview: the branded interview session of FC took place where the enthusiastic freshers were interviewed. Was more of introduction by the freshers. There were fun sessions also which (and of course) the freshers enjoyed a lot.

Movie show with Drishtipat

It was an excellent movie show which received response more than expected. "The Promised Land" which highlighted the misery and problems that biharis have to face in BD. In the end of the show, we had a person from their society to answer several questions from the audiences.

Kothopokothon - tea with Mostofa Sarwar Faruki

It was a very very VERY memorable evening. Loads of audiences, 3 great personalities and a great event, what can be better! Mr. Faruki, Mr. Hasan and Mr. Rasel were present in this very special event. Hilarious and exciting, these people really made the evening a memorable one. They shared many hilarious and eventful moments of their life and carrier. There was a student comedy show also and the evening was ended by a song sung by Mr. Hasan. We had special guests from Dhaka University Film Society, NSU and Creative Bangladesh.

MONON

Boshipuk Trip (6th of June 2008)

On the 6th of June MONON visited a Rehabilitation Centre for Children and the Elderly named 'Boshipuk' in Gazipur. All the members reached the facility at 10:45 am and were joined by some faculty members of different department of BRAC University.

The Rehabilitation Centre is being run as a private concern of the Givensy Group of Industries founded by the Chairman Khotib Abdul Zahid Mukul. The Centre for the elderly is currently home to 122 men and 98 women and it was the aim to give these people a day that would be etched in their memory and ours forever.

Upon arrival, the participants were divided in to groups of girls and boys and they took gifts for each of the residents to their dorms. At 11:00 am dry food such as peetha, papor were

arranged for the residents of the rehabilitation centre. While they handed out the simple gifts and food, they saw in their eyes the innocent remnants of some long forgone youth, the spirit rekindled and reunited in joy.

The students interacted with the men and women of the center from 11:30am to 12:30pm. They had been warned previously not ask any private questions, however they shared their experiences with the students freely. Maybe the students reminded them of some far-away family, grand child, son or daughter, a loss, which reflected in their eyes. They in turn reminded our students of their own grandparents and sometimes the tears came freely. On that day, they were their family; they sat, feasted and laughed together. One of the

ladies showed her sarees in pride, while others raised their hands in prayer for well being of the students. At 12:30pm Masuma Khatun Lipa, Director of Boshipuk, gave suggestions and lectured the students about the theme. The students made a promise to her, that no matter how good the facility, none of the relatives would ever end up in Boshipuk.

After lunch they arranged a game show and prize giving ceremony for the aged people which started at 3pm and continued on till 4pm. The game show consisted of can throws, peanut-peeling competition, ring through, and coin drop in water and mini football.

The men and women participated in all the games. Some won prizes in all the games. Their enthusiastic participation was an inspiration to all of us. Pro Vice Chancellor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed who came to visit at around 4pm inspected the event and much appreciated the effort by the club members. The cultural program followed at 4:30pm, everyone dressed in their best to attend the program. The show started with the theme song of MONON and ended by a drama based on William Shakespeare's 'The Taming of the Shrew'.

The member of Boshipuk also participated in the cultural program through songs, poetry and jokes. The highlight of the evening was when two of the children sang "Bridhasram" by Nachiketa. By 7pm it came time to depart, although nobody wanted to leave, yet the logic suggested otherwise. And finally all of the participants reached BU campus safely. Students really enjoyed the entire event and one of them expressed their feelings in her own words:

The aged people are much braver and stronger than those half their age, otherwise, how is it that they have borne so much sadness with no complaint where we have so many objections even when our lives are filled with people who love us? No matter where it is in the world we go, we shall always carry the memory of this day with us, their laughs, their smiles, their tears, something their families haven't bothered to do, and long after they are gone, in our hearts we grant them...

"...Immortality,
There is a vision and a fire in me
I keep the memory of you and me, inside
We don't say goodbye
With all my love for you
And what else we may do
We don't say, goodbye"

Celebrate Anti Drug Day (26th of June)

Drug is a poison that is capable of destroying a civilization, an outrageous flame that grasping the young generation. To aware the youth about the devastating effect of drug addiction, the Anti-Drug Day is celebrated widely on 26th June every year. This year MONON has taken an initiative to commemorate the Anti-Drug Day with the program named 'JAGORON' including rally, movie show and seminar. "SAY NO TO DRUGS" was the slogan while a group of students carried out a rally in front of Brac University building at 10.30am. guided by Mahbuba Naznin Sani, Advisor and Joynub Nabila Obayed, President of MONON, Atiqur Rahman, DCO, Student Affairs. Furthermore, Major Saif (company commander, RAB-1) and Captain Lokman led Seven RAB members and took part in the rally. After the rally, Major Saif delivered a short speech towards the students on the disadvantages of drug addiction and also added that the young people should be concerned about the prevention of drug and if they find any suspected person trafficking drug they should inform to RAB. Followed by the rally, at 11.00am a film on drug addiction entitling "The City of God" was showed in collaboration with BUFC (BRAC University Film Club). After this movie show, a seminar was held on the topic 'Drug Addiction' at 2.00 pm. Bro. Ronald Drahozal, Executive Director of Apon (Addiction Rehabilitation Residence), and Zahid Iqbal, Counselor, Apon carried out the seminar. This seminar was started with a presentation on different forms and types of addiction and the affects of drug

addiction among the young generation. Moreover, Mr. Zahid added his experiences as a counselor of Apon. Finally, this interesting seminar ended with a question and answer session and hopeful faces of the students promising not to do drugs.

BU Cultural Club "Folk Songs"

On June 26 Cultural Club organized a "Folk Song" program at indoor games room. 6 BRACU students performed there along with the famous folk song artist Kiron Chandro Ray.

Celebrating Nazrul & Rabindra Jaointi

On June 16 cultural club celebrate "Nazrul & Rabindra Jaointi" at indoor games room. There were 12 performers from BURAC University cultural club. Two famous nazrul and rabindro songit singer Mita Haq and Saheed Samad also performed in that program.

Art Society Summer Fest 1415

On June 12 Art Society organized "Summer Fest 1415" fair at Indoor Games Room. The fair received a huge response from the students and officials of BRAC University.

News from GDLN Center

4 major activities were held during June 2008 at the BRAC University GDLN Center, the details are elaborated below:

Training by APO - Energy Efficiency

This Event was organized by Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in collaboration with National Productivity Organization (NPO) Bangladesh and Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) from June 8 to June 11, 2008 at BRAC University Video Conference Center to provide basic training in elements of energy efficiency focusing on industries and buildings. This course will enable participants to understand the basic principles of measuring the energy performance of selected applications in industry and buildings and to prepare energy management plans for improving energy efficiency. The countries connected by Video Conference was Bangladesh, India, Japan, Cambodia, Thailand, United States & Vietnam

Training by APO - Exporting Agri-Food Products to Major Global Markets

This Event was organized by Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in collaboration with National Productivity Organization (NPO) Bangladesh and Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) from June 24 to June 26, 2008 at BRAC University Video Conference Center to enhance participants' knowledge on the current trends and emerging opportunities for Agri-food products in major global markets and identify ways by which agribusiness enterprises from member countries can benefit from such trends and opportunities, To enable participants to understand the current and emerging import-related procedures, policies and regulations on imports of agri-food products in major global markets, To enable participants to formulate national and enterprise levels export strategies. The countries connected by Video Conference was Bangladesh, India, Iran, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan & Sri Lanka

Course offered by World Bank Institute (WBI) with GDLN Trade Finance Tools for Export Diversification

This Course was organized by World Bank Institute (WBI) in collaboration with Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) for selected participants from May 15 to June 12, 2008 (For 5 Weeks) at BRAC University Video Conference Center. The primary objective of the course was to help trade policymakers, advisors, researchers, private operators (in agriculture, industry and services) as well as export support institutions in client developing countries to better understand possible proactive role a government can play in trade finance. This proactive role could be fulfilled in terms of assistance and support to export financing and development of efficient financial markets in order to attenuate/alleviate the lack of trade finance in developing countries, and contribute to trade expansion and facilitation, by mitigating market failures and information asymmetries in developing countries with poor financial markets. The second objective of the course is to help provide a better understanding of trade financing instruments (e.g. Documentary Letters of Credit, Counter Trade, Factoring, Pre-Shipment and Post Shipment Financing, Buyers' and Suppliers' Credits) as well as hands-on practical exercises on Export Credit Insurance (to protect exporters and mitigating the financial impact of risks on the exporter) and Export Credit Guarantees

(to protect export financing banks from losses they may incur stemming from the provision of funds to exporters). Upon reaching the underlying objectives, developing countries may be able to face their chronic balance of payments deficits and promote growth. The countries connected by Video Conference for this session were Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ghana, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka & Tanzania.

South Asia Capacity Building for Bilateral, Purilateral and Multilateral Trade Negotiations

This Course was organized by World Bank Institute (WBI) in collaboration with Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) for selected participants from May 28 to June 25, 2008 (For 5 Weeks) at BRAC University Video Conference Center. The primary objective of the course is to help trade policymakers, advisors, researchers, private operators (in agriculture, industry and services) as well as export support institutions in client developing countries to better understand possible proactive role a government can play in trade finance. This proactive role could be fulfilled in terms of assistance and support to export financing and development of efficient financial markets in order to attenuate/alleviate the lack of trade finance in developing countries, and contribute to trade expansion and facilitation, by mitigating market failures and information asymmetries in developing countries with poor financial markets. The second objective of the course is to help provide a better understanding of trade financing instruments (e.g. Documentary Letters of Credit, Counter Trade, Factoring, Pre-Shipment and Post Shipment Financing, Buyers' and Suppliers' Credits) as well as hands-on practical exercises on Export Credit Insurance (to protect exporters and mitigating the financial impact of risks on the exporter) and Export Credit Guarantees (to protect export financing banks from losses they may incur stemming from the provision of funds to exporters). Upon reaching the underlying objectives, developing countries may be able to face their chronic balance of payments deficits and promote growth. The countries connected by Video Conference for this session were Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal & Sri Lanka.

Institute of Educational Development

Afghanistan Educational Leadership Study Tour

The Institute of Educational Development (IED), BRAC University is presently hosting a twenty-member team from the Afghanistan Higher Education Project Educational Leadership Study Tour, funded by USAID. Seventeen participants, two translators and the Team Leader are participating in the study tour. The participants are from sixteen Institutes of Higher Education based in different provinces of Afghanistan, under the Ministry of Higher Education.

The Educational Leadership Study Tour is a four-week training programme organized by IED from June 20 - July 16, 2008 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Dr. Monica Gomes and Ms. Leela Dahal from IED are coordinating the Study Tour, while senior leaders and faculty members from BRAC, BRACU, and government and non-government organizations are facilitating the various sessions as Resource Persons.

The main purpose of the Educational Leadership Study Tour is to enhance the leadership skills and capacities of the participants and provide models of good practices in educational leadership from case studies of Bangladeshi Government and Non-Government educational organizations and institutions and analyze how these may be applied in the context of Afghanistan to improve educational leadership.

The format of the study tour included visits to relevant organizations or meetings with leaders of organizations to find out the leadership roles and functions of these organizations, followed by reflection sessions to apply the knowledge gained in the context of Afghanistan.

In this context the participants visited and met with leaders of the Ministry of Education, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, BRAC, BRAC University, BRAC Education Program, National Academy of Educational Management, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Ain O-Shalish Kendra, Campaign for Popular Education, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, and MC College, Sylhet.

The study tour also included sessions to provide participants with theoretical knowledge on leadership. Topics covered included leadership styles, overlaps between leadership and management, effective leaders, leadership and networking, Government-NGO collaboration, motivation, change management, human resource management, succession planning, gender equality and equity.

The participants will be traveling to Sylhet to visit the field programs this week. The closing ceremony will

be held at the BRAC Center on 15th July 2008, to be attended by leaders of the various organizations and institutions, resource persons and facilitators. The participants will be making presentations on their findings and the applications in the context of Afghanistan.

The participants' list is as follows:

1. Ahmad Jan Bedar - Lecturer of Education Faculty Badakhshan Institute of Higher Education, Badakhshan
2. Mohammad Ibrahim Bamyani - Rector, Lecturer of Education Faculty, Baghlan Institute of Higher Education, Baghlan
3. Ghulam Dastgeir - Dean, Lecturer of Education Faculty, Balkh University, Balkh
4. Ruhlolla Frogh - Lecturer of Education Faculty, Bamiyan University, Bamiyan
5. Mirwais Safi - Deputy Rector of Academic Affairs, Lecturer; Faryab Institute of Higher Education, Faryab
6. Zalmai Salih Obaid - Professor of Education Faculty, Herat University, Herat
7. Abdul Qayoum Rajabi - Head of Chemical Technology Department, Lecturer; Jawzjan Institute of Higher Education, Jawzjan
8. Mohammad Yousuf Azizi - Lecturer of Education Faculty, Kunduz Institute of Higher Education, Kunduz
9. Farmanullah Helaman - Dean of Faculty of Education, Lecturer, Nangarhar University, Nangarhar
10. Wahidullah Abdul Rahimzai - Deputy Dean of Education Faculty, Lecturer; Paktia Institute of Higher Education, Paktia
11. Mohammad Saber Saberi - Rector and Lecturer of Parwan Institute of Higher Education; Parwan
12. Sahib Nazar Dashti - Head of Social Science Department, Faculty of Higher Education, Takhar University, Takhar
13. Ghulam Murtaza Mehran - Deputy of Student Affairs and Lecturer of Kabul Education University, Kabul
14. Abdul Azim Noorbakhsh - Spokesman & Director of Media and Publications for Ministry of Higher Education, Kabul
15. Gul Nazir Nazimi - Lecturer at Faculty of Science, Kabul University and Head of Entrance Examination Committee
16. Mohammad Younus Toughyan - Professor of Literature; Kabul University, Kabul
17. Mohammad Tahir Mia Khail - Lecturer of Education Faculty Shaikh Zayed University, Khost
18. Khalid Haris - Interpreter
19. Jawad Arabzadesh - Interpreter
20. Miel Hendrickson - Team leader, Overseas Training, Afghanistan Higher Education Project