

2006/february

Farewell

Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU hosted a lunch on February 28, 2006 to bid farewell to Professor Abdur Rab, Chairperson Department of MGB who has joined Eastern University as the Pro-Vice Chancellor. Pro-VC, all the Chairs of the departments and the Directors attended the lunch. VC in his brief speech acknowledged the contribution of Professor Abdur Rab and thanked him for his significant role in setting BU on firm footing from day 1 of its operation. He wished Professor Abdur Rab success in all his future endeavours.

EDF Activities

Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF) organized a seminar on preparing Business Plan Fall 2005 semester. Professor Abdur Rab, the patron of EDF conducted the seminar. Two other faculty members of the MGB Department Mr. Farhan Faroque & Mr. Tanveer Ahmed Khan also contributed in the seminar. Two new advisors have been appointed for EDF. Mr. Zakir Hossain Sharkar and Mr. Ahsan Ullah have taken charge of this forum. EDF had been given the responsibility of procuring and selling of souvenir items on the occasion of the 1st Convocation of BU held on January 28, 2006. The general meeting of EDF was held on February 27, 2006. The patron and members approved a new logo of EDF. The activities for the current and upcoming semesters were decided. Activities will include 'meet the entrepreneur', field visit, and workshop on business plan. An executive body has been formed to carry out the future activities of EDF. The newly formed executive body includes three students from the Department of Management & Business. Syed Niaz Ahmed was nominated as the President, Mohammad Shakhawat Hossain as the Vice President and Md. Nahid Hasan as the General Secretary. The new executive body of EDF also bade farewell to their departing patron Professor Abdur Rab.

Vice Chancellor's meeting with the Clubs and Forums

VC's meeting to review activities and revised budgets of BU clubs and forums was held on February 27, 2006. VC, Pro-VC, Director Student Affairs, patrons and advisors were present at the meeting.

ESS Seminar

Department of Economics and Social Science (ESS) organised a seminar on "Is There a Link Between Tariff Setting and the State of Technology?" on February 23, 2006. Dr. Muhammad Wasiqur Rahman Khan, Assistant Professor, ESS was the keynote speaker. Faculty members and students attended the program.

Shaheed Day Observed

International Mother Language Day and Shaheed Day was observed in a befitting manner at the BU Campus, Savar on February 21, 2006. In the morning the students along with the CS, House tutors and management executives went for 'Probhat Feri' to a Shaheed Minar at a school nearby. In the afternoon a debate competition was held among the students. A seminar on '21st February' was held on February 20, 2006. Mr. Mujibur Rahman, a senior trainer of BRAC, was the keynote speaker.

Drama staged at Savar & Main Campus

BU Drama & Theater Forum (BUDTF) staged drama at BU Campus, Savar on February 21, 2006. The selected part of three famous stage dramas, ie, Sajaler Ma by Momtajuddin Ahmed, Senapoti by Abdullah Al Mamun and Paer Awaj Pawa Jai by Syed Shamsul Huq were performed by BUDTF members. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU, Mr. Shafaat Ahmed, Campus Super, officials and students of RS were present. BUDTF staged the same plays at BU Main Campus on February 22, 2006. Eminent dramatist/playwright Professor

Momtajuddin Ahmed and Professor Firdous Azim, Patron, BUDTF were present.

Seminar by Fashion Institute

Pearl Fashion Institute, Dhaka organized a seminar for BU students on February 20, 2006 at BU. Pearl Fashion Institute is premium apparel and textile-training institute in the private sector in India backed up by a hundred-placement record in the industry. PAF has now opened a branch in Dhaka, PEARL FASHION INSTITUTE (PFI), to train manpower for the growing garment industry in Bangladesh. Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman introduced the team to the students and also welcomed them at BRAC University. Mr. Rajat Bhattacharyya, Executive Director, PAF International and Ms Archana S. Raj, Marketing director, PAF international spoke to the students on their programs and activities. A large number of students attended the program.

BUPC Lecture: Me and My Camera

BU Photography Club (BUPC) arranged a lecture: 'Me and My Camera' by renowned portrait photographer Nasir Ali Mamun on February 16, 2006. Nasir Ali Mamun initiated portrait photography in Bangladesh in 1972. 'His subjects happen to be creative figures and celebrities of the world, including those from the South Asian subcontinent. Mamun's camera captured many of rare moments of the rare humans in a spirit of discovery. What he achieved, indeed, amount to a progression of facial history of creative souls. Light and shadow form a marvel of arts in his hands, in figures of black and white alone.' He has published five books including the latest 'Guru' portraying the legendary painter S M Sultan. The lively lecture was followed by a slide show of portraits of different prominent national and international figures while sharing the photographer's exciting experiences of taking those.

ESS Seminar

Department of Economics and Social Science (ESS) organised a seminar on "How Countries Choose to Ration Quota Rents?" on February 16, 2006. David W. Skully, Professor, ESS was the keynote speaker. Faculty members and students were present.

Valentine Day Blood Donation Programme at BU

BRAC University Social Development Forum (BU) and Bangladesh Thalassaemia Hospital jointly organized a daylong valentine day blood donation program at BU campus on February 14, 2006. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU inaugurated the program. Mr. Mustafizur Rahman Khan, Adviser, Bangladesh Thalassaemia Hospital and Dr. Zainab F. Ali, Director, Student Affairs, BU were present. A total of 104 male and female students of BU donated blood. BU organized the Program in response to the call of the Bangladesh Thalassaemia Hospital.

Trip to Ekushey Boi Mela



The students of ENG 115: Introduction to English Prose and SOC 235: Urban Sociology were taken for a field trip to the Ekushey Boi Mela on February 11, 2006, by the course instructors Ms. Sahana Bajpaie and Ms. Irum Shehreen Ali. The primary idea behind taking the students of English to the Boi Mela was to acquaint them with the relevance of reading and writing in our own lives, of looking at how literature especially is a part and parcel of everyday living and to have a closer look at the resources they need to share their knowledge and experiences. For the students of Sociology the objective of the trip was to visit an urban literary festival that brought together people from all strata of society in what has become a much loved Dhaka-ite

tradition. It was a great occasion for BU students to get out of the classroom and integrate theories and concept they have learnt with real life observation and experience.

Muzharul Islam Master Class (MIMC) 2006

The Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) jointly with the Department of Architecture, BU organized for the first time a five day "Muzharul Islam Master Class (MIMC) 2006" held from February 11-15, 2006. The Master Architect Muzharul Islam conducted this 5-day design studio with assistance from Professor Shamsul Wares, Professor Fuad H Mallick, Rafiq Azam, Uttam Kumar Saha and Nahas Ahmed Khalil. Muzharul Islam is the pioneer of modern architecture in Bangladesh. He is and has always been a source of inspiration for the younger generation of architects and students. The concept behind the master class is to create opportunity for architects to learn first hand from Ar. Islam's approach to architecture and its role in the overall socio cultural context of the country. This was done through carrying out design exercises under his supervision. About 20 architect members of IAB participated in this five-day intensive studio. The participants at the end of the five-day program made presentations on their projects and there was a critique in presence of Ar. Islam. Participants were awarded certificates of completion for this studio program. Ms. Nesfun Nahar, Lecturer, Department of Architecture participated in the event.

ARC Faculty Selected as a Member of ISC

Dr. Q M Mahtab-uz-Zaman, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture has been selected as a member of International Scientific Committee (ISC) for the upcoming conference: Global Built Environment Network 2006-Towards an Integrated Approach for Sustainability, to be held on September 11-12, 2006 at University of Lancashire, Preston, UK. He has also been selected as working member for the ongoing 'Campaign for Urban Conservation: Restoration of Shakhari Bazaar Neighbourhood', jointly organised by the Urban Study Group and the Institute of Architects Bangladesh. From February 07-08, 2006 Dr. Mahtab participated as a member of the expert group at the SAARC Expert Group meeting on 'Formulation of a Comprehensive Framework on Disaster Management', in BAPTC, Savar.

Presentation on the 'Exchange Student Program', USA

The Student Affairs Office organized a presentation by Tanzela Monsoor, student of architecture and participant of South Asian Undergraduate Student Leaders Institute Program 2005 organized by Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, USA on February 07, 2006. Tanzela was among the 7 members selected by the American Center from all universities in Bangladesh to participate in the six week long exchange student program and she talked about her experiences on the culture, landscape, people and education in USA. Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU, chairpersons, teachers, staff and students attended the session.

RS news

On February 21, 2006, a friendship football match was played between BRAC Bank participants and BU Residential Semester students. The match was played in a very friendly atmosphere. BU students won the match 3-0. The inter-dorm cricket competition was held among the boys Dorms. Chayaneer became champion by defeating other two dorms while Krishnachura became runners-up. A seminar on 'Mind-mapping' was held on February 06, 2006. Dr. Yousuf M Islam and his team conducted the seminar. The seminar had generated lot of enthusiasm among students. Inter-dorm badminton competition was held for the boys and girls dorm separately in both singles and doubles category. The inter-dorm volleyball competition was held among the boys Dorms. Chayaneer became champion by defeating other two dorms while Krishnachura became runners-up. The 1st issue of Activity Newsletter was brought out on 06 February, 2006. All five dorms brought out original and innovative writings in colourful pages. On February 25, 2006, a total of 130 students were divided into two groups -one of 65 was assigned for BRAC project visit to Dhamrai and Gazipur and another of 65 was assigned for micro lab. RS Students visited Liberation war Museum on February 18, 2006. The 1st round quiz competition was held on February 26, 2006. All students participated in the contest. The first round inter-dorm debate competition was held on February

28, 2006. On the basis of the presentation of all five dorms, Chhayaneer and Dhansiri were selected for the final contest.

February Update for School of Public Health

Orientation of MPH students 2006

Orientation day for the new incoming batch of MPH students was held at Savar on February 11, 2006. The students were shown around the campus, introduced to each other and the core faculty of the MPH program, and an overview of the program was given. Later that evening, a dinner was organised by SPH for the new MPH students and there were a large number of invited guests. The Chairperson and founder of BRAC, Mr. FH Abed was chief guest and spoke on this occasion.

Core Modules

The MPH students successfully began and completed the first module, 'Introduction to Public Health' a two-week course from 12th -23rd of February. The course was co-taught by Dr. Alayne Adams (Columbia University), Dr. Richard Cash (Harvard University) and Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dean of the School of Public Health. Students began the second core module 'Anthropological Approaches to Public Health and Qualitative Research Methods,' on February 27th, and the course will end on March 30th. The course is co-taught by Sjaak van der Geest (Amsterdam University), and Dr. Shahaduz Zaman and Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, School of Public Health.

Staff Development

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid attended a workshop on 'Bioethics', at ICDDR, B during February 26 - March 2, 2006, which is being taught by Dr. Richard Cash (Harvard University) and Dr. Amar Jasani, (CEHAT, India).

Development Studies Program Events in February

Development Studies Program (DSP) hosted "Saturday Hours", a two-hour seminar series on most Saturdays during the month. The objective of these seminar series was to explore, share, and discuss different issues related to development perspectives, theories, and practices as well as to generate new ideas. DSP invited guest speakers from home and abroad to participate in these seminars. Around 20 to 25 participants attended the events. The seminars were open to all interested people of BRAC, BU, and broader development community. In February, the following seminars were hosted by DSP:

February 11, 2006

"The genesis, evolution and influence of Human Development Reports"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Selim Jahan, [Senior Advisor, Employment for Poverty Reduction, Bureau of Development Policy, UNDP]

February 18, 2006

"The global discourse on poverty"

Guest Speaker: Professor David Hulme, [Professor in Development Studies, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester]

February 25, 2006

"Popular culture and critical thinking"

Guest Speaker: Professor Firdous Azim, [Chairperson, ENH, BU]

Career Services Activities

Career Services Office has successfully arranged a networking and an information session with Standard Chartered Bank at 'Serai Restaurant' on February 16, 2006. Head of 'HRD' Mr. Aminul Haque, head of 'Consumer Banking' Mr. Tanim and Graduate Management Associate Mr. Abid from Standard Chartered Bank were present at the session. Pro V.C Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed and Advisor of MBG Department Professor Humayun Murshed were also present at the session. Mr. Aminul Haque congratulated one of the MBA

student, Md. Jobair Kaiser for successfully qualifying in the on-line Graduate Management Associate test.

Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) started for Spring 2006 on February 22, 2006. 40 students are attending the program being supervised and coordinated by Ms. Mirka Rahman.

A seminar was organized on Online Recruitment Service on February 26, 2006 jointly with www.jobslinkbd.com. BBA student Julius Valentine Gomes has been placed for internship at United Nations Office for Project Service (UNOPS).

President GB Meets BU Faculty

Mr. F H Abed, the Founder and Chairperson of BRAC and President Governing Board of BRAC University met all the full-time faculty members and officials of BU on February 09, 2006. Session included, a short 30 minutes Video on BRAC and Mr. Abed, address by Mr. F H Abed, Discussion, and refreshment. The Video was made by Ashoka Foundation projecting Mr. Abed's success as a Social Entrepreneur. The film is being used in some leading universities in USA and around the world as a teaching case.

Jazz Musical Program

The American center, Dhaka jointly with BU cultural club organized a Jazz musical program by a group of young jazz players from USA titled The Rhythmic Prophecies on February 05, 2006, at BU indoor games room. The members of the Jazz music group were Reinaldo De Jesus Corchado (percussion), Zaccai Curtis (Keyboard), Luques Curtis (Bass), Richie Barshay (drums). The group was welcomed by Dr. Zainab F Ali, Director Student Affairs BU. Ms. Michelle Jones Deputy Public Affairs Officer, Fahmida Chowdhury Program Officer, Mr. Abu Mazhar Technical Specialist, were also present from the American Center. The program was highly appreciated by the audience and it ended with two melodious solo numbers by Salman Raihan Khan, a member of BU cultural club.

ESS Seminar

Department of Economics and Social Science (ESS) organised a seminar on "ICT for Human resource development", on February 02, 2006. The Keynote-paper was presented by Mr. A S M Parves, fellow lecturer and a fellow in PhD in Economics Program at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia. Faculty members and students of ESS attended the Seminar.

ARC Faculty Paper Accepted

Paper titled: "Globalization and Urban Transformation - Case of Dhaka" by Dr. Q M Mahtab-uz-Zaman, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture has been accepted for presentation for Panel 42 at the 19th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies (ECMSAS) to be held in Leiden, the Netherlands, 27-30 June 2006.

Cultural Club Activities

Adrita Anwar, student of architecture was selected among top 15 in the Dhaka division among the Bengal Foundations Sreejanshil Protibhaaar Shondhane musical competition in the Tagore songs and Ponchokobi songs categories. Tahmid Rahman Safi, student of MGB was selected among the top 20 in the 'Close Up Musical Talent' competition. Cultural Club recently completed the recording of the BU Anthem. The anthem is the winning entry of 'BU Anthem student competition' by Amir Ibn Sharif, student of architecture. Shams M Ghani, lecturer, ARC Department and member of the musical band 'Warfaze', composed it.

New Appointment

Professor Humayun Murshed joined BU as an Advisor, with the status of a Professor, to the Department of MGB on February 12, 2006. Professor Murshed graduated in Finance from Dhaka University and obtained his Ph.D. from University of Manchester, UK. Professor Murshed stood first in HSC Examination and obtained first position in the first class in both B Com (Hons) and M Com Examinations in Finance from Dhaka University. Professor Murshed joined Dhaka University as a Lecturer in Finance in 1982. He joined the School of Management Studies, University of Brunei Darussalam and worked as the Head of School of Management Studies till 1998. During his tenure in Brunei he played a pioneering role in establishing link programs with various universities in UK and USA. He also launched the Executive MBA Program. Since 1992, Professor Murshed, in the capacity of a Visiting Professor, has been contributing to the MBA Outreach programs of Maasrtricht School of Management, Netherlands in Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Namibia, Dubai, Egypt and Indonesia. He has worked as a consultant to a number of projects and organizations including World Bank, USAID, American Express, Brunei Shell Petroleum, Brunei Electrical Services, Brunei Telecom, HSBC and Civil Service Institute in Brunei. Professor Murshed has actively managed the Asset Valuation Project of Bangladesh Power Development Board and Computer Orientation Program for the Members of Bangladesh Parliament, sponsored by the UNDP. He has published several articles in academic and professional journals, including research based book and participated in various international meetings and conferences. He has conducted Executive Development Programs in UK, Singapore, Thailand and Brunei. Professor Murshed is also working as an International Consultant to the Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC)--Accounting & Auditing Project of the World Bank, Washington D.C. Professor Murshed is currently a Professor and Director of the Placement Office in the Department of Finance, University of Dhaka.

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