

2006/march

Cultural Festival

BU Cultural Club (BUCuC) participated in the "Inter Private University Cultural Festival" organized by Shangskritik, Shanganthan, North South University on March 31, 2006 at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium. The rich cultural heritage of Bangladesh was presented by the members of the BUCuC through their excellent performance of songs and dances.

CSE Seminar

Dr. Geoffrey Norman Childs, School of Technology, Oxford Brookes University, UK, offered a seminar on "Optic Fiber Systems and Mobile Communications" on March 30, 2006.

ENH Seminar on 'Oedipus after Lacan'

On March 30, 2006 the Department of English and Humanities organized a seminar titled 'Oedipus after Lacan'. Dr. Salimullah Khan (Professor of Law, Stamford University) gave a talk on the Lacanian view of 'Oedipal Complex'. Students and faculty members of ENH as well as other departments of the University attended the talk. Invited guests from outside the university also attended the seminar. It was a very lively session, which was followed by a 'question-answer' session.

BU Granted Permanent Status

Based on the fulfillment of all the terms and conditions of Private University Acts, and also on the operation of BU to the full satisfaction of Ministry of Education and the UGC over the period of the last five years, BU has been granted the 'permanent' status of a university effective from March 29, 2006. This distinction is in recognition of the integrity and commitment of the founders of BU, the members of BU Governing Board, members of BU Academic Council, all faculty members and those responsible for the management of BU.

ARC Research Seminar

The research unit of Department of Architecture arranged a seminar 'Edge defining elements and vitality of public spaces' on March 29, 2006. The speaker Lecturer Iftekhar Ahmed through this study tried to establish the relationship between the elements that define the edge of public spaces and the vitality of public spaces, with a special focus on the urban context of Hong Kong downtown area. The aim of the study was to underpin the critical issues pertaining to edge and its elements ranging from the physical to nonphysical attributes and their overall impact on the adjacent public spaces and then establishes their role to impart vitality.

Governing Board Meeting

The 17th GB Meeting was held on March 28, 2006 at BRAC University with Mr. F H Abed, Chairperson of BRAC and President of BRAC University in the chair. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU and other GB members were present in the meeting.

DSP Launches a Five Year Research Program on "Pathways of Women's Empowerment"

Development Studies Program (DSP) at BU launched a five year long research program on March 28, 2006. The Program aims to make the pathways through which women's empowerment takes place and to learn from women's experiences of what makes change that produces more equity in their relationships with each other and with men. DSP will be the South Asian hub for this research initiative and will link up with a team of IDS researchers and communications practitioners with a network of southern academics and activists from the Interdisciplinary Women's Studies Nucleus (NEIM) at the University of Bahia in Brazil, the Social Research Centre at the American University in Cairo in Egypt and the Centre for Gender Studies and

Advocacy (CEGENSA) at the University of Legon in Ghana, and with development partners, UNIFEM and CARE. The research program is funded by DFID under their Research Program Consortium (RPC) arrangement. The core team members for the inception phase (until October 2005) for the South Asian hub of this research program are Maheen Sultan (hub coordinator), Firdous Azim, and Simeen Mahmud with direct support from Naila Kabeer. A scoping workshop, which will bring together regional perspectives on the various themes of this research program, will take place towards the end of August this year.

Watching 'Peepolykus' in Jatiya Natyashala

Peepolykus, a touring theatre group of UK staged a comedy in the Jatiya Natyashala at Shilpakala Academy on March 22-23, 2006. Students of ENG 114 ('Introduction to Drama' course) along with their teachers experienced the mind-blowing hilarity on those days. It was a part of their course where they are supposed to observe a performance and critique it in terms of their theoretical understanding of drama as a genre.

VC Invites Principals of Schools



For the ENG. 439 course: Teaching Practicum, the students of English Department observed language classes (to get exposed to real life classroom situations) in different educational institutions organized by their course teacher Ms. Shaheena Choudhury. To express gratitude for permitting students to observe these classes, the VC of BRAC University invited the heads of the schools and concerned teachers who took part in this cooperative effort for tea on March 23, 2006. Attending schools included, The Aga Khan School, Viqarunnisa Noon School and College,

Sunbeams, and BAF Shaheen School and College. Some of the students who were part of the observation team gave a presentation on what they saw as examples of good teaching methods at all these schools which was followed by a question/answer session, generating a lot of lively discussion. The Chairperson of ENH Professor Firdous Azim, Professor Manzoorul Islam, Ms. Nazmeen Huq, Ms. Shaheena Choudhury, Ms. Tania Afroz Khan, the director of students' affairs Dr. Zainab F Ali and all the students of the course 'Teaching Practicum' also attended the meeting.

Video Conference

Live videoconference was held between BU and The Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) World Bank on March 23, 2006. The Topic of the conference was "Policy and administration matters of the GDLN". The coordinator at the GDLN end was Mr. Michael Foley and at BU end was Ms. Irum S Ali, Lecturer, ESS. Ms. Fahima Khanam, Assistant System Administrator, BU provided the technical support.

School Visit

An eight-member BU team including Dr. Zainab F. Ali, Director, Student Affairs, Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Senior Student Affairs Officer, Mr. Towfiq Ahmed, Lecturer, MNS, Mr. Shadid Haque, Lecturer, CSE, Ms. Nausheen Naz Eusuf, Lecturer, ENH, Mr. Shamsul Kaonain, Student, Physics, Mr. Aminul Islam, Asst. System Administrator visited European Standard School on March 20, 2006. Mr. Nurul Islam, Principal, European Standard School welcomed the BU team. Dr. Ali introduced the BU team members to the students and talked about BRAC and BRAC University. Approximately 50 senior students attended the seminar that also included a video presentation on BU followed by a question-answer session on admission requirements, tuition fee waivers, and especially on programs and facilities of Physics, CSE and English departments. BU brochures were distributed among the students.

Admission Test-1, Summer 2006

Admission Test-1 for the Summer Semester 2006, for admission to the undergraduate programs of the Departments of ARC, MGB, CSE, ESS, ENH, MNS and Law, was held on March 17, 2006. The result of the written test was announced on March 21, 2006. Interview for the final selection of undergraduate students was held on March 22 and 23, 2006. The names of candidates finally selected for the undergraduate programs were announced on March 27, 2006. Admission Test for MBA was held on March 17, 2006.

Written test results were announced on March 19, 2006. Interview of the selected candidates were conducted on March 20, 2006. The names of candidates finally selected for the graduate programs were announced on March 21, 2006.

VC Attends SAF Meeting

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of UNESCO and to attend a meeting of South Asia Foundation (SAF) Governing Council Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU visited Paris from March 16-17, 2006. The meeting was held at UNESCO headquarters.

Midterm Exams, Spring 2006

Midterm Exams of Spring 2006 started on March 12, 2006 and finished on March 16, 2006. During the week, classes and other regular activities were held as per schedule.

Participation in National Photography Competition

To mark the occasion of International Women's Day 2006, Banglalink in association with IKON Photo, organized a national competition of young women photographers of Bangladesh. The theme of the competition was titled '...keboli drissher jonmo hoi' ('..images emerge'). 404 prints were submitted by 139 participants from all around the country, of which 96 were selected for exhibition at the Drik gallery, Dhanmondi. Farah Naz Parveen a senior III student of the Department of Architecture submitted two prints 'rusted happiness' and 'untitled'. Both the prints were selected for display at Drik gallery. The weeklong exhibition started on March 8-14, 2006.

Saturday Hours

Development Studies program (DSP) hosted "Saturday Hours", a two-hour seminar series on March 11 & 18, 2006. The objective of these seminar series is to explore, share, and discuss different issues related to development perspectives, theories, and practices as well as to generate new ideas. DSP invites guest speakers to participate in these seminars from home and abroad. Around 20 to 25 participants usually attend the events. The seminars are open to all interested academic and researchers of BRAC, BRAC University, and broader development community. Following seminars were hosted:

March 11, 2006

A Seminar on Social Entrepreneurship History of the Disability Movement in Bangladesh, Speaker: Mr. Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri, Director, Impact Foundation-Bangladesh

March 18, 2006

"Creating Access to Housing for Low Income Women Workers", Speaker: Mashuda Khatun Shefali, Founder and Executive Director, Nari Uddog Kendra (NUK).

Travel Sketches: China

The first of travel sketches series under Angan lectures was arranged on March 08, 2006. Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, Lecturer, Department of Architecture shared experiences of his several travels to different cities of China. The photographs taken during his travel were shown while discussing about the culture, built form, monuments, etc of China. The lecture was followed by informal question and answer session.

Seminar on OFDM and MIMO

Mr. Rishad Ahmed Shafik, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Islamic University of Technology, offered a seminar on "OFDM and MIMO: Next Generation Frontier Technologies and Research Trends in Wireless Communications" in BU on March 08, 2006.

Club Activities

At a cross talk organized by Young Economists Forum (YEF) of the Department of Economics of the North South University (NSU) was held on March 15, 2006, students from NSU and BU discussed on different

topics including environment, education, foreign aid, export, FDI, exchange rate and corruption in Bangladesh economy. The theme of the discussion was "Bangladesh economy- what is driving it and what is holding it back?" Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Executive Director of Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), and Professor Hafiz GA Siddiqi, Vice Chancellor of NSU were also present at the round table discussion. Rizwana Shahnaz and Fariha, from BU Economics Club (BUEC) of the Department of Economics were participants in the student's panelist and they discussed on issues such as FDI and Foreign Aid. After the students' round of discussion, Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya and NSU Vice Chancellor gave their feedback on each topic. Atiqur Rahman, chairman, Gour Gobinda Goswami, Associate Professor of Economics department of the NSU and renowned economists Professor Amirul Islam Chowdhury and Professor Mohammad Ali Rashid were also present at the discussion. Mohammad Jahangir Alam, lecturer BU and Advisor of BUEC and Moshahida Sultana, Lecturer BU joined in the discussion too. At the end of the program, certificates were awarded to all the student participants.

BUFC Screens Movies

BU Film Club (BUFC) celebrated 'International Women's DAY' by screening the film "Bend It Like Beckham" on March 8, 2006. Tom Hanks Trio film shows starring the Oscar winner Tom Hanks were screened on March 7, 8 and 9, 2006. The films were "Catch Me If You Can", "The Green Mile" and "Road to Perdition". Celebrating our Independence Day on March 26 the famous Bangla film "Matir Moina" was screened on March 27, 2006.

Chair ENH Attends Seminar

In observance of the International Women's Day on March 8, 2006, the Department of Media and Communications, IUB hosted a special seminar on 'Women and the Media' on March 07, 2006. Professor Firdous Azim, Chairperson, ENH, BU attended the seminar and presented a paper on the "Changing role of women in the media in Bangladesh".

ARC Faculty Attends International Seminar

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Lecturer, Department of Architecture, participated in an international seminar in Indonesia organized by the Department of Architecture, Petra Christian University. The theme of the seminar was 'Rethinking Local Knowledge in Vernacular Settlements: Anchoring the Concept of Place in the Post-Disaster and Post-Global World'. He presented a research paper co-authored by Professor Fuad H Mallick and himself titled "Dynamic Vernacular: Outdoor Spaces in the Homesteads of the Ultra Poor".

Update of RS

Inter-Dorm Competitions

Inter-dorm Competitions for the Residential Semester (RS) Spring '06 in BU Campus, Savar started with Football competitions. Keenly contested competitions were also held on cricket, volleyball, table tennis, athletics and badminton for the boys, while the girls competed in handball, carom, athletics and badminton. In addition, quiz and debates were common for the boys and the girls.

Micro-lab Exercise

Second Micro-lab Exercise of the Semester was conducted on March 04, 2006. Half of the students of the campus participated in the exercise. In this unique exercise, the students performed the duties of the TARC officials and the staffs starting from the In-Charge down to cleaners and laundry persons. The exercise created a lot of enthusiasm among the students and the exercise was conducted successfully.

BRAC Project Visit

Half of the students of RS went on BRAC Project visits on March 04, 2006. The students were divided in two groups, one group went to Manikganj and the other group went to Sreepur. Each group was further divided into eight sub-groups. Two sub-groups were assigned one subject to look into and later submit a report on the visit and give a presentation. The subjects were BRAC Micro-Credit Program, BRAC Health Program, BRAC Education Program and Legal and Human Rights Program.

Concluding Dinner

The Concluding Dinner of the RS Spring `06 (1st Batch) was held on March 15, 2006. Pro- VC Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed was the Chief Guest. Professor Humayun Murshed, advisor to the MGB Department, was the special guest and he was introduced to the students. VC's certificates were awarded to 29 students for their achievement in different fields. In addition, prizes for the various inter-dorm competitions were also given away. Chhayaneer was adjudged as the best Dorm and was awarded the House Cup. On March 16, 2006, the students of RS Spring (1st batch) left Savar Campus.

RS Spring `06 (2nd Batch)

A total of 96 students, of which 74 are male students and 22 are female students, joined the Residential Semester at Savar Campus on March 18, 2006. The students of this batch are from ARC, CSE & ECE Undergraduate Programs.

Independence Day Program

On the eve of Independence Day the students of RS organized a colourful cultural program in BU Campus, Savar in the evening of March 26, 2006.

Update of James P Grant School of Public Health

Course Update

Students successfully completed 'Anthropological Approaches to Public Health and Qualitative Research Methods' on March 30th. The course was co-taught by Professor Sjaak van der Geest, Dr. Shahaduz Zaman and Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid. In the last two weeks of the course, the students completed an exploratory learning exercise on Qualitative research methods and will be present their findings to faculty and some invited guests on March 30th morning at Savar. After the course ends, the students will be on one week vacation and will begin classes on April 9.

Faculty news

Brigham Young University (BYU), USA, announced that BRAC, a leading NGO of Bangladesh, and Scojo Foundation of USA are jointly being honored with "Economic Self-Reliance Innovators of the Year Award" for their new initiatives to increase poor people's accessibility to reading glasses. Dr. AMR Chowdhury, Dean of the School and Deputy Executive Director of BRAC was selected as the recipient of this award for his contribution to the idea of low cost reading glasses for the poor. He was also recently selected as 'Hero of the Week' by Prothom Alo (leading national newspaper) for his contribution in this area.

Dr. AMR Chowdhury has been elected as a member of the Global Health Initiative.

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor, has been awarded a Fellowship at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore for a three-month period (April-June). The Asia Research Institute (ARI) was established as a university-level institute in July 2001 as one of the strategic initiatives of the National University of Singapore (NUS). Its mission is to provide a focus and resource for research on the Asian region. Dr. Rashid will be working under the guidance of Professor Gavin Jones in the cluster - The Changing Family in Asia. Dr. Rashid will be on duty leave; and departs on April 2 and returns to the School in the first week of July.

Career Services Office Programs

1. BU Career Services Office and British American Tobacco jointly organized a two-day workshop on 'Effective Communication' on March 14-15, 2006. Thirteen Management Executives of BRAC University and five from BRAC Bank attended the workshop. Mr. Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, ED BRAC inaugurated the Program and Mr. Imran Rahman,, DMD BRAC Bank distributed the Certificates in the concluding session on March 15, 2006. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC BU was present at the inaugural session.

2. BU Career Services Office arranged an information session with bdjobs.com in BU on March 20, 2006. Mr. A K M Fahim Mashroor, CEO of bdjobs.com gave a presentation highlighting the qualities that the employers look for the entry-level positions. Forty seven senior students from different departments of BU attended the session.

BUCC Activities

BU Computer Club (BUCC) hosted two events and won a prize during the month. The objective was to explore, share, and discuss different issues related to Linux, Open Source, and Open Office from various perspectives, theories, and practices as well as to generate new ideas.

March 9, 2006

BUCC secretary, Annajiat Alim Rasel was awarded the Monthly Most Valuable Member Recognition Award from Bangladesh SQL Server User Group (BDPASS).

In March, the following events were hosted by BUCC:

March 10, 2006



"Seminar on OpenOffice.org and Bangladesh Linux Users Group Meeting"
Guest Speakers: John McCreesh, [Co-Lead of OpenOffice.org Marketing Project and MarCon for UK] Mahay Alam Khan, [MarCon of Bangladesh] Jamil Ahmed, [Part of Ankur Group, Official Team for Bangla, OpenOffice.org] Dr. Sayeed Salam, [Chairperson, CSE Department, BRAC University] Dr. Mumit Khan, [Associate Professor, CSE Department, BRAC University]. BUCC & Ankur Group jointly organized this seminar. Guest speakers from BU, outside BU and abroad were invited to participate in the seminar. The event was coordinated by BUCC. About 80 participants attended the event. The seminar was open to all interested people of BU, Bangladesh Linux Users Group, and broader users & development community. Event Pictures are available at

<http://student.bu.ac.bd/~u04101017/OpenOfficeSeminar>

March 30, 2006

"Workshop on Linux" Key Speakers: Mohibuzzaman Zico, [Lead, BUCC Linux users group (BULUG)] Shyen Mohabbat Shikder, [Member, BULUG] Annajiat Alim Rasel, [Secretary, BUCC] The event covered the good sides of Linux and stayed away from the bare technical issues. About 25 participants attended the event. The mailing list for Linux helpdesk in BU was introduced. It is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BUCCLinux>