

2006/april

MGB Guest Lecture

Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmad, Managing Director, PKSF and ex-Governor of Bangladesh Bank, delivered a lecture on the "Current Macroeconomic Issues in Bangladesh" on April 29, 2006. The lecture was organised by MGB Department. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU, Dr. L R Osmani, Visiting Faculty, MGB, Dr. Anwarul Haque, Chairperson ESS, teachers and students of MGB attended the program.

Shakespeare's Birthday

A colourful program titled Celebrating Shakespeare conducted by the lecturers of the department of English and Humanities (ENH), BU, Mr Rakesh Saha, Ms. Naira Khan and Ms. Rukhsana R. Chowdhury was presented on April 29, 2006 in the Indoor Games Room of BU. The programme coincided with festivities around the world celebrating Shakespeare's birthday. In the first part of the show students and teachers recited the most famous lines from Shakespeare's plays and sonnets. The three witches from "Macbeth" recited their lines in the form of a dramatic performance, which was very well received by the audience. The show was coordinated by Professor Firdous Azim, Chairperson, ENH. The second part was the presentation of a comedy "When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet" written by Charles George. The ladies were attired in colourful, period costumes and their acting enthralled the audience. The chief guest Professor J R Choudhury concluded the program by remarking that he enjoyed the performances so much that it should be performed for a broader audience. Finally the teachers and students sang Happy Birthday Shakespeare while the VC cut the cake! BU Faculties and students enjoyed the show with great enthusiasm

MNS Seminar

The MNS Department of BU organised seminars on "Prospects of Physicists in Global Economy" by Professor Abdul Latif Choudhury, Professor of Physics, Elizabeth City State University, North Carolina, USA and "Exciting World of Physics" on April 26, 2006. Professor A A Z Ahmad chaired the seminars. Faculty members, BU students were present.

Open House

An 'Open House' of Freshmen 1 was organized at the Department of Architecture for the parents and guardians of freshmen 1 on April 25, 2006. Dr. Zainab F. Ali and Rahat M. Niaz, studio teachers, discussed the architecture curriculum especially the nature of studio works with the parents. Dr. Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson, along with the class teachers answered questions from the parents and guardians. The session ended with a tour of different design studios.

National Business Debate Competition 2006

MGB Department organized the first National Business Debate Competition 2006 on April 21-22, 2006. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU inaugurated the event. Eight universities, including BU, participated in the competition. Department of Finance, University of Dhaka emerged as the champion team while NSU got the runner-up trophy. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU, distributed trophy and certificate among the students. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU, Dr. Nazrul Islam of NSU, BU faculty members and MGB students were present.

Boishakhi Mela

To celebrate the Bengali New Year, members of the Cultural Club organized an all-day 'Boishakhi Mela' on April 16, 2006 at the BU Indoor Games Room where the Economics Club also held a Food Festival. Dr.

Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU inaugurated the fair. The fair offered a wide range of stalls of handicrafts, t-shirts, saris and jewelries and traditional snacks. One of the main attractions of the Mela was a Bangla message center for sending email or mobile phone messages in Bangla alphabets. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU, teachers and staff visited the Mela. The Boishakhi Mela and the Food Festival together was a great success in terms of student participation.

ARC Chairperson at Eastern Mediterranean University, North Cyprus

Professor Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson Department of Architecture attended a seminar "INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION 2005/2006" held on April 14, 2006 at the Faculty of Architecture, Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Gazimagusa, North Cyprus. He was the respondent to the winning paper of a competition held by Open House International on 'Alternative Educational ways for Teaching and Learning Architectural Design'. While there, he also presented a paper in a panel discussion on housing issues entitled 'Housing in Two Extreme Contexts: Ultra Poor & Ultra Rich' organized by the Housing Research Unit of the Faculty of Architecture and held on April 17, 2006. Dr. Mallick also delivered a lecture titled 'Contemporary Architecture in Bangladesh: The Search goes on' for the faculty members and students of EMU on April 18, 2006.

Cultural Program on Choitra Shongkranti

The students of Architecture Department organized a lively cultural program on 'Choitra Shongkranti' to mark the end of Bangla year 1412 and beginning of New Year 1413 on April 13, 2006. The students presented song, dance, recitation and instrumental music. Huraera Jabeen, lecturer, Architecture Department presented Rabindra sangeet. Traditional snacks added an appropriate mood to the informal program.

BU Lecture on Transnational University

The comprehensive research universities are playing a vital role in offering quality education, said Professor Jeffrey Sean Lehman during a lecture session on 'The Role of Transnational University in the 21st century' on April 10, 2006 at BRAC Centre. BU and the Asian University for Women Support Foundation (AUW) organised the lecture session. Professor Jeffrey Sean Lehman, Professor of law and former president at Cornell University, is currently a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars in Washington DC and president of the Joint Centre for China-US Law and Policy Studies at Peking University and Beijing Foreign Studies University. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU made the welcome address. Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU introduced Professor Lehman while Mr. Kamal Ahmed, Vice Chair, AUW spoke on the occasion. Dr. Hafiz G A Siddiqui, VC-NSU, Dr. Iqbal Mahmud, AC Member, BU, Ambassador Farooq Sobhan, ED-BEI, the Cultural Attache of the Russian Embassy, BU teachers, officials and students attended the lecture.



Kite Flying at Savar Campus

BU Cultural Club organized the traditional 'BU Kite flying Day' at the BU Campus, Savar on April 10, 2006 at the main playground. The students, teachers and staff of BU and TARC Savar participated in the event. The students had great fun flying the colorful kites in the favourable Chaitra breeze.

Angan Lecture 37

Angan, Architecture Department organized its Lecture 37 on April 09, 2006. Dr. Noazesh Ahmed, a renowned environmental scientist of the country delivered 'Mahabanashpatir Padabali', a lively and well-choreographed presentation of verbal, musical and photo image media on the trees and flowers of

Bangladesh. Dr. Ahmed stressed on the importance of saving plants and appropriate landscape design, which in turn save the environment and provide comfort. The lecture was followed by a discussion session. Teachers and students of various departments of the university attended the event.

Renowned Architect Mr. Moshe Safdie at BU



The internationally acclaimed Canadian architect Moshe Safdie visited Bangladesh on April 6-8, 2006 at the invitation of the Asian University for Women Support Foundation (AUW). Mr. Safdie delivered a lecture on "Order and Complexity" for Architects and student of Architecture at the BRAC Center on April 07, 2006. The lecture was jointly organised by AUW, BU and the Institute of Architects, Bangladesh (IAB). Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU made the welcome address and Mr. Khadem Ali, President IAB gave the introduction to Moshe Safdie. Mr. Kamal Ahmed, Vice Chair, AUW also spoke in the session. Professor Fuad H Mallick, Chair, ARC conducted the program,

BU. Mr. Safdie attracted wide attention when at the age of just 26 he designed the award-winning Habitat for the Montreal Fair. Before establishing his own practice and going on to join the faculty of the Harvard School of Design, Mr. Safdie worked as an associate of Louis I Kahn, the famed architect of Bangladesh's National Parliament. His landmark buildings and master plans of cities and towns and institutions have inspired a generation of architects and students of design. Among his most noted buildings is the Public Library in Salt Lake City in Utah as well as the Chapel at Harvard Business School. He also designed the Henry Rosovsky Building at Harvard University

CSE Picnic

The Department of CSE organised a picnic for CSE students at Shamoly, Gazipur on April 07, 2006. Mr. Munawar Sahol, Lecturer, CSE coordinated.

BUFC Film Show

BU Film Club (BUFC) continued its activity through screening films every week. The club screened famous film "Criminal" directed by Gregory Jacobs on April 06, 2006. To welcome Bangla New Year with a new Bangla film, BUFC screened recently released movie "Nondito Noroke" on April 13, 2006. The movie is based on the first and most appreciated novel by Humayun Ahmed. A much-applauded hindi film, "Parineeta", based on the story written by legendary author Sharatchandra Chattopadhyay and directed by Pradeep Sarkar was screened on April 27, 2006.

ARC Faculty Participation in SAARCH Assembly

Professor Fuad H. Mallick and Mr. Hasibul Kabir presented a paper on 'Living Below the Line: Sustainability and Houses of the Ultra Poor' at the 10th SAARCH (South Asian Association of Architects) Assembly and Seminar held at Dhaka from March 31-April 2, 2006. Dr. Mahtab-Uz-Zaman presented a paper titled 'Sustainable Method to Restore Open-Built Ratio for Urban Development in Dhaka mega-City'. Dr. Zainab F. Ali chaired the session three of 'South Asian Architecture: Today and Tomorrow'.

BUSEF Joined with TOG

BRAC University Social Entrepreneurship Forum (BUSEF) organised a discussion with Turkish Students and Volunteers (TOG) on April 02, 2006. Speakers were A Serra Cenkur, Youruk Kurtaran and Halil Oz, Community Volunteers Foundation (CVF), Turkey. With the vision to promote and encourage volunteerism amongst students for their society, BU setup which is designed to be a student-driven and student-run forum. A four-member team including 3 students and a lecturer-visited Turkey to attend a field visit

seminar program in November 2005.

HR Colloquium at BU

BU Career Services Office organized a Human Resources (HR) Colloquium for the Department of MGB on April 3, 2006 at BRAC Centre. Professor J R Choudhury introduced BU and Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU and Professor Humayun Murshed, Advisor, MGB facilitated the program. Head of HR and Directors from different organizations were present at the event. It has been a great learning experience to the students, faculty members and the department. Employability criteria were also better understood as prospective employers were given a platform to communicate their expectations from the students and University.

Update of DSP

The Development Studies Programme (DSP) mourned the untimely death of Ms. Nasrin Huq, Country Director, Action-Aid, Bangladesh. Ms. Huq was invited as a guest speaker in MDS course on Right Based Approach to Development on April 13, 2006 to discuss her experience in applying right-based approach in Bangladesh. She spent two hours in a very lively interactive session with MDS students. We pay tribute to her memory.

Right Based Approach to Development also invited Mr. Mosharraf Hossain, Country Director, Action on Disability and Development (ADD) to share ADD's experience of applying right based approach on April 06, 2006. This interactive session exposed MDS students to learn from practitioners who use theory in practice. The title of his presentation was "Right Based Approach and Disability Movement in Bangladesh". The presentation was followed by a short documentary film on Right based approach to development named "Wheel and Water".

As a part of DSP's regular Saturday hours, the program hosted Mr. David Bergman who spoke on corporate social responsibility on Saturday, April 01, 2006. MDS students and faculty members attended the session. The title of his presentation was "Increasing Worker Safety and Corporate Accountability: From Bhopal to Bangladesh"

A project presentation series was hosted by the DEV 503: Global Dimensions of Development course. As a part of their course requirements, students enrolled in this course presented their projects in three sessions on April 8 and 15, 2006. The presentation topics and included Private Capital Flow: From Developed to Developing Countries; Globalization & Labor Standards and; Globalization Environment.

The students of NGOs and Social Entrepreneurship visited three social enterprises in Dhaka on April 08 and 15, 2006. They went to visit a disability focused organization in Mirpur section 5, a waste management program in a slum and a waste composting plant in operation on April 8, 2006. On April 15, 2006, they visited the office of Waste Concern and discussed related issues with Mr. A H Md Maqsood Sinha and Mr. Iftekhar Enayetullah, the two social entrepreneurs in waste management sector of Bangladesh.

In the second phase of development of BRAC University Social Entrepreneurship Forum, BUSEF, a three-member trainer team from TOG, Turkey visited BRAC University, Dhaka, from the 29 March to 3 April 2006. The team spent time with young volunteers of BRAC University Social Entrepreneurship Forum, for extensive training sessions and lecture-discussions on volunteerism and social entrepreneurship. The two-day training program included interactive exercises, games followed by thought-provoking discussion sessions on various issues that need to be addressed by the society today. The importance of team building, collaboration, competition, leadership and tolerance were given utmost significance in all the exercises conducted by the Turkish team. The training along with the friendly and inspiring attitude of the Turkish members team was able to inspire BUSEF members to have confidence to make a difference in both their inner selves and their surrounding environments. In the first phase, a four-member BUSEF team including three students and a lecturer visited Turkey in November 200 to participate in workshops and study tours of social entrepreneurship projects run by Turkish students. The Ashoka Foundation, USA, funded both the phases.

School visit

A six-member BU team including Dr. Zainab F. Ali, Director Student Affairs, Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Student Affairs Officer, Ms. Sharmina Hossain, lecturer, MNS, Mr. Rajat Shuvro Roy, lecturer, CSE, Mr. Aminul Islam, Assistant System Administrator and Ms. Shaheena Chowdhury, lecturer, ENH visited the Aga Khan School on April 12, 2006. The team was received by Ms. Fauzia Chowdhury, the Vice Principal of the school. Dr. Ali introduced the BU team and gave an overview on BRAC and BRAC University. The BU team members spoke on academic departments and answered questions on admission requirements, tuition waiver, credit transfer system, job opportunities and career placement. The session was very interactive. Later the team met the Mr. George Kays, Principal of the school and presented BU souvenir to him. BU brochures were distributed among the students.

A five-member BU team including Dr. Mumit Khan, Associate Professor, CSE, Mr. Towfiq Ahmed Lecturer, MNS, Ms. Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury, Lecturer, ENH, Mr. Mousfiqur Rouf, lecturer, CSE, Mr. Shamsul Kaonain, student, Physics, Mr. Aminul Islam, Assistant System Administrator and Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman, SAO, visited the Hermann Maeiner College on April 05, 2006. The Principal, Mr. A.F.M. Salimullah received the BU team and gave some general information on the college. Nearly 100 senior students along with the Principal and senior teachers of the college attended the seminar in their auditorium. Dr. Mumit Khan introduced the BU team and gave an overview on BRAC and BRAC University. The BU team lecturers also spoke on their respective departments. The program ended with a video presentation and a question answer session. BU brochures were distributed among the students.

A five member BU team including Dr. Mumit Khan, Associate Professor, CSE, Mr. Towfiq Ahmed, lecturer, MNS, Ms. Tania Afroz Khan, lecturer, English, Mr. Aminul Islam, Assistant System Administrator, Mr. Shamsul Kaonain, student, Physics and Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Student Affairs Officer visited Maple Leaf school on April 02, 2006. Ms. Zeba Ali Principal, Maple Leaf School welcomed the BU team and Dr. Mumit Khan introduced the team to the student. A video presentation on the programs and facilities on BU was attended by approximately 30 senior students of the school. Students also enquired about BU scholarship policy, credit transfer, residential semester at Savar. BU brochures were distributed among the students.

Update on RS

Micro-lab Exercise

The first and second phases of Micro-lab Exercise of the Residential Semester were conducted on April 01 and April 22, 2006 respectively. Each time 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

The first and second phases of BRAC Project Visit of the Residential Semester were made on April 01 and April 22, 2006. The first phase visit was made to Manikgonj and the second phase to Gazipur. The students were divided into 12 groups. Every three groups were assigned one subject to look into and 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.

Liberation War Museum Visit

All students of RS Spring `06 went for a visit to Liberation War Museum at Segun Bagicha on April 08, 2006. Following the visit of the museum, the students sat in a quiz test on Liberation War of Bangladesh. The visit generated much enthusiasm and fervor among the students.

Inter-Dorm Competitions

Inter-dorm competition began with the cricket match between Dhanshiri and Krishnochura Dorms on April 04, 2006. During the month football, volleyball, table tennis competitions were held for the boys; while carom, badminton and handball competitions were held for the girls.

Activity Newsletter

On April 04, 2006 all five dorms published the first issue of Activity Newsletter. The first issue speaks volume for the originality and flair in writing of the students.

CS Dinner

The 1st CS Dinner of the semester was held on April 05, 2006 followed by an amusing cultural function. The 2nd CS Dinner was held on April 19, 2006. Mr. Imran Rahman, Deputy Managing Director, BRAC Bank was the Guest of Honour.

Update of SPH

Course Update

The students successfully completed a three-week long course on "Quantitative Research Methods". Dr. Diana Romero of Columbia University, USA, taught the course. Local faculty member, Dr. Mizanur Rashid Shuvra served as Teaching Assistant for the course.

SPH featured in World Health Report

The BRAC School of Public Health was featured in the World Health Report 2006. The following is an excerpt from the report:

" In Dhaka, Bangladesh, the BRAC University James P. Grant School of Public Health aims to train a cadre of professionals who will improve the health outcomes of populations in disadvantaged areas of the world. Its first 25 students are mostly from low-income countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Uganda - but also from the United States and graduated in January 2006. Students learn through fieldwork centered around the public health practitioners, managers, researchers, educator and policy-makers, and the school will run an active placement service. Students and teaching staff benefit from a close collaboration with Bangladesh's Centre for Health and Population Research (ICDDR, B). Staff members are drawn from Bangladesh, the region and internationally, which adds to a stimulating environment, as do the prestigious partners from around the world."

Launch of National Health Watch

The James P. Grant School of Public Health hosted the inaugural meeting of a civil society initiative to launch a national Health Watch in Bangladesh. The meeting took place on April 17, 2006 at the BRAC Centre Auditorium. The inauguration was addressed by eminent personalities such as Mr. Mahfuz Anam of The Daily Star, Ms. Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori and Dr. Zafrullah Chowdhury of Gonoshasthaya Kendra. The School has been chosen as the Secretariat for the Watch. Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dean of the BRAC School of Public Health will act as the Member-Secretary. Initial expenditures for the activities of the Watch will be borne by BRAC. Long term funding for the secretariat will be sought from other sources. A temporary Working Group has been formed whose responsibility will be to steer the Watch activities so that a credible report is published at the specified time. Dr. Abbas Bhuiya of ICDDR, B has been nominated to co-ordinate this group. An Advisory Board consisting of eminent personalities in the country has been nominated to provide guidance to the Watch. Dr. Rounaq Jahan, Director, Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB) and Adjunct Professor, Columbia University is the Convener. The Board will be expanded as and when necessary. It will meet at least twice every year. The objective of the Health Watch is to monitor Bangladesh's progress towards achievement of the goal of good health for all citizens. The Watch will publish on a yearly basis a report on the state of health in Bangladesh. It will also use other monitoring and advocacy measures such as conferences, meetings, press briefings and media reports to engage all key stakeholders in the health sector.

AlumniBU

Alumni Association of BRAC University undergraduates - AlumniBU has been formed. Following Representatives of AlumniBU have been elected for one year with effect from April 1, 2006:

President: Mr. Naushad UzZaman

Vice Presidents - Mr. Ziad Bin Hyder, Ms. Rizwana Choudhury

Treasurer: Mr. Ali Al Asadullah Md. Shafi

Secretary: Mr. S M Mahbubuzzaman

AlumniBU is a web-based association.