

2006/september

Governing Board Meeting

The 19th Meeting of the BU Governing Board (GB) was held in BU Conference Room on September 27, 2006 with Mr. F H Abed in the chair. All members of the GB were present in the meeting.

Seminar on Stock Market

BIZ BEE arranged a 1-hour seminar on "Stock Market" on September 27, 2006. Professor Iftakhar Ghani Chowdhury, Dean, BRAC Business School (BBS) conducted this short but interactive seminar that answered queries of an audience of more than 60 students and faculty members from BBS and ESS. A general overview of the stock market, its function, its role in our society was the topic of discussion. The Dean shared his experience on merits, drawbacks and problems faced by the stock market, and their impact on ordinary stockholders and as well as the role of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

ENH Seminar

The Department of English and Humanities (ENH) hosted a lively afternoon with poet Shamim Azad, who enthralled the audience with her "Interactive Story-telling and Poetry Performance" on September 26, 2006. Shamim Azad is a bilingual writer, poet and story-teller based in London. The session was chaired by Professor Firdous Azim, and attended by Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU and guests from Bishwa Shahittya Kendra, teachers and students of the English Department of BU.

BU Signed Agreement with GDLN

BU signed an Agreement with the World Bank initiated GDLN-Global Development Learning Network on September 16, 2006. Dr. Michael Foley, Long Distance Learning Specialist, World Bank-GDLN and Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU signed the agreement. Under the Agreement BU has become an Affiliate Centre of the World Bank-GDLN. GDLN facilitates cooperation between its Affiliates. GDLN and Affiliates jointly offer their facilities, services and interactive distance learning techniques to the development community to organize and implement capacity enhancement, knowledge sharing, training, consultation and dialogue events. Working with GDLN allows its clients to reach across the world and bridge geographical distances cost-effectively and with high and lasting impact. BU has been working on trial basis with GDLN through its Video Conferencing facility. This will provide BU an opportunity to arrange all kinds of events for the benefit of the development community. Mr. Ali Salman salman@bracuniversity.ac.bd, Lecturer, BRAC Business School (BBS) was appointed as the coordinator of BU-GDLN.

2nd National Business Case Competition (NBCC)

The 2nd two-day NBCC 2006 competition was jointly organized by BRAC Business School and BRAC Bank at the Spectra Convention Centre on September 9-10, 2006. A total of nine teams from six different public and private universities took part in the event. The teams were: Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Dhaka University (DU), Independent University Bangladesh, Jahangirnagar University, Khulna University, North South University (NSU), Department of Finance, DU, Department of Management, DU, Department of Marketing, DU and the host BRAC University (BU). The Prize giving ceremony was held on September 10, 2006 and was followed by a dinner. North South University (NSU) was adjudged as the champion, the Department of Management; Dhaka University (DU) was adjudged the runner-up while Khulna University secured the third position. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU attended the function as the chief guest while Mr. Imran Rahman, Managing Director, BRAC Bank was the special guest.

GP Cell Bazaar Promotional Campaign

As a part of the new program called 'Student Centred activities by Multinational Companies' Grameen Phone Ltd and Cell Bazaar Inc organized a promotional campaigning program at BU for students on September 07, 2006. Students were informed about the newly launched website called GP Cell bazaar created by Grameen phone. The website enables sellers to list details of their products and services in a database that is accessible to all subscribers of Grameen Phone.

College Visit

A six-member BU team including Dr. Fuad Hassan Mallik, Chairperson, Architecture Department, Dr. Mahtab Uz-Zaman, Associate Professor, Architecture, Ms. Sohana Manzoor, Lecturer, ENH, Md. Ashiqur Rahman Khan, Lecturer BBS, Mr. A.K.M. Shafiq Ullah, Lecturer, MNS, Mr. Asif Iftekhhar, student, ENH department, Mr. Aminul Islam, Assistant System administrator and Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman visited Notre dam College on September 13, 2006. Father Benjamin D'Costa, principal Notre Dam College received the BU team members. Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman welcomed the students and briefed about the programs offered by BU. In the introduction session Dr. Mahtab, Mr. Ashiqur Rahman and. Asif received huge applause from the students for being an Ex-Notre Damean. A video presentation on BU was also shown to the students. Dr. Fuad Hassan Mallick conducted the question answer session and he with other BU team members responded to queries from students. The program ended with giving a prize to Mr. Arlab Saha, a first year student of Notre Dame College for his correct answer to the question "what is the special feature of BRAC University". About 150 students attended the seminar in the Notre Dame College Auditorium.

Fall Semester-2006 Begins

Fall Semester 2006 began with all regular activities on September 03, 2006.

Makeup Final Exams, Summer 2006

The Make-up Final Exams of Summer, 2006 were held between September 5 and 9, 2006.

RS Programs

Fall '06 New Intake

A new batch of 135 students, 78 boys and 57 girls joined the Residential Semester (RS) Fall '06 on September 2, 2006. The Semester started on 03 September and will continue till 14 December '06. New students have been enrolled in CSE, ENH, ESS, ARC Departments and BBS.

Introductory Workshop

A two-day Introductory Workshop for the students of the RS was conducted on September 3-4, 2006. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU conducted the Workshop. Dr. Yousuf M. Islam acted as the facilitator. The theme of the workshop was 'Programs to build motivation and focus toward self-development'. On day 1, students deliberated upon 'Goals in Life', 'Qualities required to achieve the Goal' and 'Leadership Qualities'. On day 2, students talked about the ways in which they learn and the relevance of RS in their learning process. Later students formulated their own 'Code of Conduct for the RS'. The parents of the students were invited to attend the second half of the Workshop on September 4, 2006, in which the Aims and Objectives of the RS were elaborated. They also attended the student presentation on 'Code of Conduct'. Later the parents were shown around the Campus.

RS Dinner

The first RS Dinner of the Semester was held on September 20, 2006. Mr. Zulfiqar Hossain, Director, Human Resources, Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited (Citicell) was the Guest of Honour. He spoke on the qualities, which the present day employers look for in a new executive. His speech generated a lot of enthusiasm among the students.

Museum Visits

RS students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) visited Bangladesh National Museum and Muktijoddho Jadughar (Liberation War Museum) on September 23, 2006. The visit was organized by the Department of Economics and Social Science (ESS), which offers the Bangladesh Studies course for all Residential Semester students of BU at Savar to orient students with history, society, culture, traditions, archaeology and art of Bangladesh. Course teachers of Bangladesh including Dr. Nurul Huda Abul Monsur, Kamrul Hasan, Rubaiyat Hossain and Meheri Tamanna, accompanied the students during the visit.

ARC Programs

Public Lecture by Dr. Q M Mahtab-uz-Zaman

'Role of Engineers in the New Building Construction Act 2006', delivered at a workshop organized by the Institute of Engineers, Ramna, on 23 September 2006. 'Urban Development Crises and Implication of FAR', delivered at a round-table meeting, organized by the Institute of Architects, Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh Institute of Planners, REHAB (Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh), and BAPA, at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, on 14 September 2006.

Study Trip

Department of Architecture, BU, organized a study trip to Bogra for the students of the Sophomore II on September 08, 2006. The main objective of the trip was to let the students be familiar with the design and set-up of a highway restaurant on Dhaka-Bogra Highway. Students also visited Mahasthangarh. Two design studio teachers accompanied the 20 students on this daylong tour.

Department of CSE Update

September 03, 2006 : Inaugural lecture of BRAC University Software Engineering lecture series

Lecture 1 of BU department of Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) Software Engineering lecture series was delivered at Indoor Games Room, BU on Sunday, September 3. Starting at 2:40pm, it went on for few hours. It was open to all; however, many participants registered via email to ensure their seats. Mr Ihtisham Kabir, CTO of Datasoft (www.datasoft-bd.com), delivered the first lecture. Prior to returning to Bangladesh, Mr. Kabir had been a Senior Software Manager at Sun Microsystems (www.sun.com). The core idea behind this lecture series is to create a platform where the academics and the practitioners can share their views on the various aspects of software engineering and development, as well as inspiring and guiding future engineers. Students and a large number of teachers attended the lecture. Dr. Sayeed Salam, Chairperson, CSE and Dr. Mumit Khan, Associate Professor, CSE were also present.

September 05, 2006 : Participation in Programming Contest, Google Code Jam 2006

Google Code Jam 2006 (GCG 2006) started on Tuesday, September 5. Members of BUCC waited one year to attend this event. Among the contestants from BUCC, Annajiat Alim Rasel (04101017, Student, CSE & Secretary, BUCC) could get into competition arena and competed. Details about that contest is available at <http://www.google.com/codejam/>

September 06, 2006 : The search for best programmers in BU

CSE Department took yet another step in their efforts to promote participation in programming contests among the students. Towards this end, the most recent Intra-University Programming Contest was held on the last 6th September, in collaboration with alohaishoppe. Alohaihshoppe organized a daylong road show of Apple products, and also arranged seminars that were attended by a large number of enthusiastic students. Alohaishoppe is the online resource for apple products in Bangladesh (www.alohaishoppe.com). The programming contest was titled "TopBU Programmers Sep 06". The mock contest was held on 6th September, and the final on 7th September. The contest went on for five hours. There were nine problems in total, and these problems were set by faculty member Mushfiqur Rouf and senior year student Fahim Muhammad Hasan jointly. These two also served as judges, along with NaushadUzZaman, Research Programmer and Dr. Mumit Khan, Associate Professor, BU. 21 participated in final round. Sarwar Alam, senior year, CSE secured first place in the contest and won a Video iPod. Loban Rahman won the Runner-up prize of an iPod nano, while third place holder Jahangir Alam won an iPod shuffle. The prizes were sponsored by alohaishoppe, and handed out by the Pro-VC Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed.

September 8-10, 2006 : Participation in National Gaming Contest, World Cyber Games 2006 -Bangladesh Championship (WCG 2006)

Five members from BUCC participated in the National Gaming Contest, World Cyber Games 2006 (WCG 2006). They were:

- * Chowdhury Mushfiqur Rahman (Amit), Player Id: NFS 251 [02101108, Student, CSE]
- * Rezwon-Ul Haque Bhuyan, Player Id: NFS 268 [02201002, Student, CSE]
- * Fahim Muhammad Hasan (Turjo), Player Id: NFS 059 [03101057, Student, CSE]
- * Muttakinur Rahman Chowdhury (Souro), Player Id: NFS 348 [03101017, Student, CSE]
- * Annajiat Alim Rasel, Player Id: NFS 058 [04101017, Student, CSE & Secretary, BUCC]

The event was held during September 8-10, 2006 at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center (BCFCC), Agargaon. Among the contestants, Annajiat and Souro could play up to the 1st round. Rezwon was able to reach 2nd round. Amit kept fighting till 4th round. And finally, Turjo, drove to the 6th round, the immediate round before the quarter final. He proved to be one of the top 13 among 400 NFS gamers in WCG 2006 from Bangladesh.

September 22-23, 2006 : Participation in National Programming Contest, ACM ICPC Regional 2006 -Dhaka Site

Four BU teams consisting of twelve members participated in the event. Teams consisted of students from various batches that include from students who are going to attend next convocation (2002) to students who were admitted in 2005. The competition went on for two days at NSU, Star Tower. On the first day (Sep 22nd), there was a mock contest and actual contest was held on the other day (Sep 23rd). While competing with about 240 contestants (80 teams), two of our teams could solve at least one problem. The event ended with a buffet dinner at Baton Rouge, Gulshan. This contest was the most important of this year and was the gateway to an international competition for the students of Bangladesh

School of Public Health (SPH) Update

Course Update

The MPH students successfully completed the course 'Aging and Health' during September 10 -September 21, 2006. The course was taught by visiting faculty Dr. Zarina Kabir, Karolinska Institute, Sweden. Dr. Farhana Sultana, Research Associate, School of Public Health, served as teaching assistant.

School Update

Briefing by Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury on Clinton Global Initiative (meeting in New York City) Chairman and founder of BRAC and President BU Governing Board, Mr. F H Abed and Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dean, BRAC School of Public Health, attended the meeting on Clinton Global Initiative (in New York City) on September 20, 2006, in which heads of states and other dignitaries were present. Former US president Bill Clinton announced BRAC's US\$250 million commitment to Africa at the opening plenary session of the meeting.

Agreement signed between BRAC and GTZ

Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dean, is representing BRAC and BRAC SPH in an agreement signed between Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH and Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC). Under this agreement BRAC and GTZ will work together in collaboration with University of Heidelberg, Germany, to come up with a plan on jointly implementing a short course on "Quality Management (QM) in Health". A course on this topic, currently being offered by University of Heidelberg, will be taken as the basis on which the proposed course will be designed in a tailor made way.

Seminar Series

The SPH conducted a weekly seminar series for the development of its MPH students and staff. This month, on 18 September 2006, guest lecturer, Dipu Moni, MBBS (DMC), LLB (NU), LLM (London), MPH (Johns Hopkins), made a presentation titled "Reproductive Health and Rights of Adolescents". The presentation covered adolescents' reproductive health, reproductive rights and sexuality, factors that shape adolescents reproductive lives in Bangladesh and the legal frameworks, both nationally and internationally Dipu Moni is

an independent Public Health professional, combining advanced qualifications in medicine and law, and specialization in public health.

BU-IED Update

Seminar on English Language Teaching in Bangladesh: Policy, Practice and Strategy

A day-long seminar entitled 'English Language Teaching in Bangladesh: Policy, Practice and Strategy' was organized by BU Institute of Educational Development (IED) on September 04, 2006 and held at BRAC Centre. British High Commissioner, Mr Anwar Choudhury and Mr Mahfuz Anam, the editor of the Daily Star, were the distinguished guests at the seminar. Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Director, BU-IED, in explaining the aim of the seminar, said, " Bilingualism -high proficiency in both Bangla and English by all completing secondary education -must be our goal." About eighty academics, teachers, researchers and officials concerned with primary and secondary education attended the seminar. The seminar was chaired by Professor Firdous Azim, Chairperson, ENH, BU. Key note papers were presented by Professor Shamsul Haque, former Chief Editor of NCTB, Tripti Dey and Md. Nazrul Islam, National Academy of Primary Education, Goutam Roy and Zulfeqar Haider, teacher trainers in ELTIP, and Jaddon Park, BU-IED. Professor Arifa Rahman, President, Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA), Professor Hamidur Rahman, Institute of Modern Languages, Dhaka University, Ms. Syeda Sarwat Abed, Director, English Language Programme (El-Pro), BU, Professor Shaheen Kabir, Jahangirnagar University, and Richard Sunderland, Acting Head, British Council also spoke at the seminar.

Teacher Development

The Teacher Development team has begun the trial of a professional development course for twenty-nine primary school teachers that combines short intensive face-to-face instruction, guided self-learning tasks and supervised practice teaching. The pilot trial is a collaborative effort with Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB) and BU-IED. The aim is to develop an effective model of primary teacher training which can be widely used.

George Washington University

A group from the George Washington University (GWU) Graduate School of Education and Human Development visited BU-IED on August 6, 2006. Professor Judith Findlay, Ed. D. along with 12 graduate students spent the morning with BU-IED learning about the Institute of Educational Development and BRAC. The visit was a part of the BU and GWU partnership program. Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Director BU-IED and others provided a briefing to the visitors about BU-IED, BRAC and education in Bangladesh.

Professor Mike Harrison, University of Manchester, School of Education

In September 2006, Mike Harrison, Program Director of the University of Manchester M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and School Improvement program visited BU-IED. The objective of Mike Harrison's visit was to assist BU-IED in the development of a proposed University of Manchester / BU-IED M.Ed., Diploma and Certificate program in Educational Leadership and School Improvement. The goal is to begin the program in the summer of 2007 leading to an award of a BU and University of Manchester degree to an initial cohort of up to 25 participants.

Early Childhood Development (ECD) Resource Centre

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) organized a national workshop at BIAM Foundation on September 04, 2006. Ms. Mahmuda Akhter of BU-IED presented the keynote paper emphasizing that ECD is a right of all children and that a comprehensive approach is necessary to protect a child's right to develop to his or her full potential. Additionally, three professional staff members of ECDRC attended an advanced diploma course on human resource development at the Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan. ECDRC is also engaged in numerous research studies on ECD at the moment.

Centre of Governance Studies (CGS) Update

The inaugural batch of students for the MA in Governance and Development has finished their classes on September 16, 2006. The program started on September 18, 2005 with 26 students. The students continue to work on their dissertation.

BRAC Chairman and President BU Governing Board Mr F H Abed gave a farewell dinner in honour of the outgoing inaugural batch of students at the BRAC Centre Inn on September 11, 2006. All the students and their spouses, faculty, distinguished guests from BRAC, BU and Donor Agencies and dignitaries were present.

Fulbright scholar Dr David Skully joined CGS on September 5, 2006 as Visiting International Faculty. He did his PhD in Economics from George Mason University at Fairfax, Virginia, USA. He has over 20 years of Research and Training experience with the US Department of Agriculture.

External evaluation of the CGS program (MAGD and Research) was conducted by Professor Jorrit De Jong and his research assistant Peter Karbergen from the Centre for Government Studies, The Hague, Netherlands. They arrived on September 24, 2006 and left on October 2, 2006.

The World Bank and the CGS has signed a partnership agreement to develop research projects on issues of Governance in Bangladesh on September 14, 2006. Barrister Manzoor Hasan signed the partnership agreement on behalf of the Centre and World Bank Country Director Ms Christine Wallich signed on behalf of the World Bank.

Club/Forum Activities

BUEC-A new Beginning!

BU Economics Club (BUEC) was launched at the BU mega event-"Club Fair Fall 2006-Omega" on September 14, 2006. Omega was the first club fair organized in BU by a club and BUEC did so with lots of music and fanfare. The Fair also pioneered a scheme to encourage competition amongst clubs by having a "Best Club at Omega" competition, which was rightfully won by none other than BUEC! The best part about the Club fair was that different clubs came together to make the Fair a success. BUEC also had its "Intake Session" in September 2006 with seven students selected as Potential Senators who are now being integrated into BUEC's activities. BUEC is proud to have these new faces who we expect will take on a more prominent role in the Club. BUEC 'Help Group' started in September with help being provided by skilled seniors in the four courses -ECO101, ECO102, ECO201 and ECO202. This was an attempt that was highly welcome by both faculty and the students who think that it is sometime much easier to approach a senior for help!

Indoor Games Club (BUIGC)

BU Indoor Games Club was champion in all categories in the inter-private university table tennis tournament organized by United International University (UIU) from September 03-07, 2006. Mainul Islam, Saikat Ahmed Kachi and Tahmid Reza participated in the tournament from BU Indoor Games Club.

BRAC University Social Entrepreneurship Forum (BUSEF): BU -keeping Fit!

A two hour long campaign was conducted by BRAC University Social Entrepreneurship Forum (BUSEF) promoting students to stay fit and use the stairs on September 17, 2006. Many students didn't mind being given some information about their bodies. Of course a little music and a few optimistic sentences every now and then really helped! Obviously these two hours didn't suddenly make people sprint up the stairs but it got them thinking and whenever they notice all those posters staring back and telling them to use the stairs for a change -they just might! It is that small change of thought that may really count.

BU Film Club Continues To Screen Films

BU Film Club had a general meeting on September 03, 2006. On September 06, 2006, BUFC screened the film "Ice Age 2: Melt Down" with the motto of 'A Fresh Film for the Fresher.' The film is a sequel of the famous film Ice Age, directed by Carlos Saldanha. BUFC greeted all the viewers with flowers since it was the first show of Fall-2006 semester. A raffle draw was conducted after the show to welcome three of the new students who were given coupons beforehand. BU Film Club participated in the Club Fair on September 14, 2006 with full enthusiasm and won the award of the third best club at the fair. The Club Fair ended with the screening of 'Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of The Black Pearl' on large screen. At BU Campus, Savar 'Ice Age 2' was screened on September 18, 2006.

Natural Sciences Club, BUNSC

A seminar on "LIFE IN STONES: STORIES FOSSILS TELL US" was organized by BUNSC at BU Campus on September 29, 2006. The seminar was conducted by Professor Nigel Hughes, Department of Earth Sciences, University of California, Riverside, California, USA.

BIZ BEE, Business Club

BIZ BEE, Business Club organized a trade fair on September 17, 2006. The fair provided an opportunity for better understanding of the objectives and goals of the club among students and teachers of BU.

OIKOS Dhaka

OIKOS Dhaka organized a voluntary blood donation camp at BU on September 19, 2006 in collaboration with Quantum Foundation. Fiftyone students of BU donated blood at the camp.

Drama Workshop

BUDTF members organized a 4-day drama workshop from September 19-22, 2006. Mr. K M Mohsin, former Director, Shilpakala Academy and part time faculty, Department of Drama & Dramatics, Jahangir Nagar University was the facilitator. A total of 20 members participated in the workshop.

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