

2007/november

## Institute of Governance Studies

The Institute has been involved with a number of projects and activities. Dr Shahnaz Karim, Assistant Director, met Development Alternative surrounding possible collaborative work surrounding their recently successful bid with USAID Bangladesh. Dr Karim also met a delegation from the Government of Norway as part of their fact-finding mission on the governance situation in Bangladesh.

The Institute held a workshop on the Compliance Review of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) with the Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs. Senior government officials, along with stakeholders from civil society as well as the media, attended the workshop. Ms Gretta Fenner, Director of the Basel Institute on Governance was also invited to provide expert advice during the workshop.

The Institute also hosted its second seminar of the Seminar Series. Dr Paul Posner, Program Director, George Mason University (GMU) presented his paper on 'Third Party Governance: Transformations in Public Management' at the Conference Room of the Institute. All IGS faculty & staff, faculty attended this from BRAC University as well as others from surrounding Universities. The University also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with GMU; the VC signed on behalf of the University.

The students from the Masters in Governance & Development program began their month long international study tour to South Korea and China. The Korean Development Institute (KDI) hosted the students for fifteen days which included workshops and seminars aimed at enhancing and providing a rounded understanding of the processes of governance from an international perspective. After completing their trip to Korea, the students travelled to Sichuan Province, China, where they were hosted by Sichuan University. The students returned to Bangladesh on 1st December.

Mr Manzoor Hasan, Director, was part of a Government of Bangladesh delegation from the Local Government Division to Jakarta to attend the Regional Forum on Reinventing Government in Asia. Mr Hasan also attended a two-day brainstorming Workshop on Social Accountability (SAC) in Delhi with the view of making the Institute a regional centre for training on social accountability. In the final leg of his journey, Mr Hasan joined the Masters students in their trip to Korea where he met the Dean of the Korean Development Institute (KDI) where further discussions were held to strengthen ties between KDI and the Institute under the existing MoU between the two parties.

## From The PRO's Desk

### **BRACU's Contribution for the Sidr Victims**

BRAC University staff and faculty has contributed an amount of Taka 1,55,728.00 for the Cyclone affected people. The cheque was handed over by Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor of BU, to Mr. F.H. Abed, Chairman of BRAC on 25 November 2007.

### **BRAC Wins 1st in ICAB 2006 National Awards**

Congratulations to BRAC for winning the 1st position in the NGO/MFIs sector of the ICAB National Awards-2006. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) awards BRAC for the best published accounts and reports. It is mentionable that BRAC also won the National Award for Best Presented Published Accounts and Reports for the year 2004 and 2005 from ICAB.

### **BRACU Clubs/Forums' Collaborative Effort**

By means of the 'Help Cyclone SIDR Victims' drive that started on the 18th of December 07, all the club members have come forward to lend a hand. They have collected a large amount of clothing, food, medicine and money for the cyclone SIDR victims. The donations are being distributed to the cyclone victims through BRAC.

## **BRAC University Writing Lab (BUWL) Launched**

The BRACU Teaching Learning Centre has launched the BRAC University Writing Lab (BUWL), an exciting new project, this month. The objective of the BUWL is to provide assistance in all kinds of writing such as Academic and Research papers, Reports, Effective Correspondence, Resume's and Cover Letters to all members of the greater BU community. The BUWL, coordinated by Mr. Sajedul Huq, plans to put up a website where students and faculty can find important writing and language teaching/learning links and will also conduct workshops regularly, not only on writing techniques but also on topics such as Time Management, Note Taking, Critical Thinking, Reading to Write and public Speaking as well. BUWL is situated on the 3rd floor, AH 202. The lab is open from 9-5 pm Mondays to Thursdays.

## **Department of Computer science and Engineering**

### **ECE News**

BRAC University Electronics & Communication Club (BUECC) organized its first industrial visit on 24th November 2007 to the Energypac. The senior students of BUECC under the guidance of Dr. Matin, Dr. Tariq & Imrul Hossain went to the Energypac Engineering unit in Savar. There the students were provided with a briefing about the operation and the factory by the site engineers. Afterwards, a guided tour took place to different units of factory, involving the high voltage testing lab, different equipments to control transformers, different phases of making a transformer and controlling it and other substation equipments. All in all first industrial visit to the Energypac was a success and very educative for the students which would motivate the BUECC to organize such tours more often.

## **School Visits**

### **Turkish Hope School Visit Program**

A BRAC University Team with Dr. Mumit Khan Associate Professor CSE department and Ms Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Assistant Director, RMO, visited the Turkish Hope School on Tuesday, November 20, 2007. Mr. Ali, Vice Principal, of the school welcomed the BRACU team members and introduced them to the students. Ms Shamsun Nahar Rahman in the introduction briefed the students about BRAC University. Dr. Mumit Khan in his presentation spoke about BRAC, BRAC University, its programs and facilities. At the end of the session Dr. Mumit Khan answered questions to the attending students.

### **European Standard School Visit Program**

A BRAC University team with Dr. Fuad Mallick, Chairperson ARC Department, Mr. Aminul Islam, Assistant System Administrator and Ms Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Assistant Director, RMO, visited the European Standard School on Wednesday, November 21, 2007. Mr. Morshedul Islam, Director ESS school welcomed the BRACU team members and introduced them to the students. Dr. Fuad Mallick presented a presentation on BRAC University to the attending students. The students later on participated in the question answer session where they were interested to know about BRAC University's financial aid policy, credit transfer system, and about some programs.

## **Department of Architecture**

### **ARC Chairperson attends conference in New Delhi**

Professor Fuad H Mallick, Director Post Graduate Programs in Disaster Management attended the 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in N. Delhi on 7-8th November 2007. The conference had about 500 delegates from 60 countries.

### **Study Trips**

Department of Architecture organized two study trips for the Junior I and II students to Boga Lake, Bandarban and Srimongol from 31st October to 4th November and 8th to 10th November 2007. The nature, was a refreshing change for Junior I students, and was also observed in detail to discover the underlying principles and order that is inherent in it. Students made sketches and presentations. The objective of the trip of Junior II was to study the natural landscape along with the sustainable aspect of living of the tribal community and gain insight to interpret them in their design projects. The respective course teachers guided the study tours. The students made sketches and presentations as part of their tours.

### **Architecture Week 2007**

Department of Architecture organized the Architecture Week 2007 from 18 to 22 November. Vice-Chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury inaugurated the event at 12pm on 18th November. Different activities were organized throughout the week including Exhibition of students work from different years, Angan public lecture, Freshmen I Openhouse, Film show, Open House for Arch.KIDS Openhouse and a cultural program.

### **Exhibition of Students Work**

The main event of the Architecture Week was the exhibition of selected works of the students of all levels from the last academic year. The exhibits included drawings and models of various architectural, landscape and interior design projects, study reports, researches, photographs and sculptures. The event was visited by students of others universities, professionals and guardians. The exhibition was arranged in the Civil Engineers building from levels 7 to 10.

### **Angan Event 50**

The 50th session of Angan lecture took place on the last day of the Architecture Week and was attended by a large number of students and teachers of BRACU and other universities, and architects. The guest speakers were noted architects Nahas Khalil of from Arc Architectural Consultants, Architect Iqbal Habib and Architect Ehsan Khan of Vitti Sthapati Brindo Ltd. The speakers talked about regional and local issues in architecture demonstrated through the examples of their design works. The event was conducted by Dr Zainab Faruqui Ali, which ended with a lively question and answer session.

### **Freshmen I Open House**

Freshmen I Open House was organized as part of the activities of Architecture week for the guardians of freshmen I students on 22nd November. Nurur Rahman Khan, Shams Mansoor Gani and Mohammad Nafisur Rahman, studio teachers, discussed the architecture curriculum especially the nature of studio works. Dr. Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson, Dr Zainab Faruqui Ali and the class teachers answered questions from the guardians. The session ended with a tour of the exhibition.

### **Screening of 'The Fountainhead'**

Department of Architecture in association with BU Film Club organized the screening of the movie 'Fountainhead' on 20th November. The film depicts the struggle of an architect to solve the dilemma between his own desire to express and the need of the people, a theme common in the beginning years of modern movement in architecture.

### **Arch.KIDs Open House**

Openhouse for the Arch.KIDs was arranged on 21st November. Huraera Jabeen and Muhammad Nafisur Rahman, lecturers of the department coordinated the program along with student volunteers. The students, aged 5 to 12, from various schools attended the event, which started with a children's movie. The children were taught Origami and mask making by student volunteers. After an enthusiastic tour through the exhibition they were asked to interpret their idea of architecture through drawings; and they portrayed inspiring ideas through buildings and forms in vibrant colors. As in all ArchKids sessions the proud Arch.KIDs enjoyed the event thoroughly.

### **Cultural Program**

The Architecture Week took on a lively atmosphere during the cultural program organized by the students of Architecture Department in the evening of 21st November. The students presented song, dance, recitation and instrumental music. The program took a different mood with the group and individual performances of the faculties and staff. The program ended with farewell songs for the graduating students.

### **Faculty Awarded Grant**

Huraera Jabeen, Lecturer, Department of Architecture has been awarded funds for research from the UK-Bangladesh Higher Education Link program 2007-08 administered by British Council Bangladesh. The purpose of the program is to support the development of co-operation, which contributes to staff, and institutional capacity building of higher education institutions in Bangladesh in priority areas that contribute directly to skills development. She will be working on 'Adaptation to climate change in cities' with Dr Cassidy Johnson, Course Director, Building and Urban Design in Development, Development Planning Unit (DPU) in University College London. The research outcomes will eventually help in developing a course module that will be offered both in DPU in MSc Development and Planning and BRAC University in the Department of Architecture in the undergraduate and future graduate program as well as in the government, NGO professionals and community leaders as a short course. Huraera Jabeen received her MSc in Development and Planning from DPU in 2004.

## **BRACU DLC Global Development Learning Network (GLN) Centre**

### **"Can South Asia End Poverty in a Generation?" - A multi-country two-hour videoconference discussion connecting Students from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka**

We are proud to inform you that BRAC University GDLN Center has successfully organized a roundtable discussion: "Can South Asia End Poverty in a Generation?" A multi-country two-hour videoconference discussion connecting Students from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka chaired by Dr. Shantayanan Devarajan, Chief Economist, South Asia Region of The World Bank on 15th November 2007, who came to visit Bangladesh recently. Our Vice Chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury was kind enough to start the Conference from Bangladesh and our Pro Vice Chancellor; Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed moderated the event from Washington DC GDLN Center.

Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka have seen unprecedented steady economic growth in the last few years. According to a

World Bank report, this strong growth has created a unique opportunity: a chance of ending poverty in a generation in South Asia, the region with the largest concentration of poor people. Participant's helped shape the discussion by posting questions and comments ahead of the event on Shanta's blog here:

<http://endpovertyinsouthasia.worldbank.org/callyoung-people-lets-end-poverty-south-asia-now>

Dr. Shanta has already posted this call to young people, and would like to know what the participant's think: "South Asia can eliminate poverty in a generation. To achieve this goal, we need to accelerate and sustain economic growth, make it more inclusive, strengthen human development, and improve governance. A daunting task" but it can be done. This goal is particularly important for young people, since this is the South Asia they will inherit and leave to their children. You can still Access the analysis that concludes that reducing poverty in South Asia is within grasp, by going into the following link: <http://digitalmedia.worldbank.org/sar/gdln/> The discussions in Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka took place at the GDLN partner facilities.

## **BRAC University represented in Online Educa Berlin conference**

From 26th to 30th November 2007 Over 2000 delegates from more than 90 countries and every continent attended the Online Educa Berlin <http://www.online-educa.com> making Online Educa Berlin the most comprehensive annual meeting place for e-learning and distance education professionals. BRAC University's Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) Coordinator and BBA Program Coordinator of BRAC Business School ALI SALMAN participated Online Educa Berlin conference by the invitation of The World Bank and was present as a resource Speaker in discussion session titling "Emerging Markets in E-Learning" (coded ACC25) The session will be a dynamic debate between the Audience, the GDLN participants who will be positioned as learning experts from five emerging markets (East Asia & the Pacific, South Asia, Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe & Central Asia) with those from two companies with an interest in emerging markets and developing countries. The audience left the session with a list of lessons learned that may smooth their path in accessing the right audience, the right technologies and the right content in emerging markets.

GDLN Resource Speakers in Online Educa Berlin are as follows:

1. Charles Senkondo, Tanzania Institute of Finance Management, Tanzania
2. Dr. Milagrito Montenegro, Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru, Peru
3. Ali Salman, BRAC University, Bangladesh
4. Dr. Pimrumpai Premsmi, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
5. Dr. Yao Kouassi, Centre d'Education a Distance, Ivory Coast

## **BRAC University Represented in Future of GDLN Workshop in Berlin**

Since its launch in June 2000, the GDLN <http://www.gdln.org> (A World Bank initiative) partnership has grown by leaps and bounds. Today the network includes more than 120 affiliated learning centers in some 80 countries around the world. Offering a combination of learning services and technologies, GDLN Affiliates enable individuals, teams, and organizations working in development around the world to communicate, share knowledge, and learn in a timely and cost-effective manner, in Bangladesh BRAC University is the one and only affiliate of GDLN.

Ali Salman GDLN Coordinator of BRAC University was selected by the World Bank to participate in the Future of GDLN Workshop in Berlin Germany from 24th to 25th November 2007. 10 Person from 6 global region of GDLN was selected and another 10 attended from the World Bank to discuss the Strategy and the Direction of GDLN in the coming Future and how to start the process of forming a Global Alliance. The meeting was highly successful and a decision was made to form a Steering Committee consisting of 6 representatives from the 6 regions and 1 World Bank official to start the process of building Strategy and Structure to form GDLN International. From South Asia Region of the Bank only BRAC University of Bangladesh was selected to attend this Meeting.

## **Student Affairs**

### **BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC)**

PHP Workshop

Throughout the month, about 20 students have been participating in the Workshop on Web and Desktop

Applications Development with PHP. It was held every Saturday taking 2 to 3 hours. While discussing about PHP 4 & 5, various database systems was introduced & MySQL was used. Participants were introduced with tools to develop applications quickly and professionally. Via 2-way interaction of the instructor, and participants, solving real life problems, this workshop tries to enable students to be able to develop any application with PHP. The workshop was conducted by senior student Fazle Munim Sayket (04241004). He is an experienced entrepreneur in this field.

### **Oracle Workshop**

About 10 students have been participating in the Workshop on Oracle Database Management. This workshop discusses about Oracle 10g, Oracle Application Developer 6i and tries to briefly discuss latest Oracle 11. While not being limited to students having database course (CSE370), this workshop enables students to manage databases using both desktop client and web client, which is heart of modern day software development. This workshop was conducted by Mahtab Uddin (04101002), an Oracle developer with professional experience.

### **Received Certificates of ICPC 2006**

BUCC has received certificates of ICPC 2006 and thankfully remembers all former contestants who have kept the programming practice alive then. Certificates can be found at:  
[http://192.168.0.84/bucc/BUCC Events/2006 Fall/2006 ICPC NSU/](http://192.168.0.84/bucc/BUCC%20Events/2006%20Fall/2006%20ICPC%20NSU/)

### **Training for ICPC 2007**

Throughout the month, about 7 ACM programming training classes were held and 5 practice contests were held, they were conducted by A.M. Hammad Ali and Annajiat Alim Rasel. Some of these contest along with class participation were used to select teams to send to contest held later this month such as NSUPC2007, EWUPC2007, NDC IT Fair 2007, and finally ICPC 2007.

### **New arrivals in BUCC File Server**

BUCC members have downloaded and made following files available via BUCC file server hosted at <ftp://192.168.0.84>. Those are Oracle 11 for both Windows & Linux, Mandriva 2008 (both free & one versions), Fedora Core 8 etc.

### **Participation in Club Fair, Fall 2007**

BUCC has participated in the club fair and recruited/renewed about 50 members. Furthermore BUCC also arranged registration and vote for workshops to be held, books needed in library, general interest of students etc.

### **Participation in EWUPC 2007**

BUCC was invited to EWUPC 2007 via an informal invitation from Mahin Rahman, ex-BRACU faculty now at EWU. Thanks to Dr. Sayeed Salam for his prompt steps. On short notice, top 2 teams from 5 teams initially listed for ICPC 2007 have participated in the EWUPC 2007 held on November 23rd. They were "BRACU Parhelia" having Annajiat Alim Rasel, Md. Intekhabul Hafiz, Khandaker Wasim Reza Tonmoy and "BRACU Nazguls" having K.M Tasbeer Ahsan, E.M. Yeaseenur Rahman Tahin and Shiblee Imtiaz Hasan. BRACU Parhelia solved two problems.

### **Attending BUETAA seminar**

BUET Alumni Association has organized a seminar on Saturday, 10th November 2007 on "Academia-Industry Linkage for Education and Research in Bangladesh: Views from the Private Sector". The seminar discussed about the linkage about expectations from Industry, Academia and students as individuals. About 7 BUCC members had attended the seminar. They were Annajiat Alim Rasel (04), Kalyan Banik (07), Khandaker Wasim Reza Tonmoy Noyon (04), Mahdin Mahboob (03), Mahtab Uddin (04), Md. Intekhabul Hafiz (05), and Sunjib Kumer Singha (03).

### **Participation in NSUPC 2007**

4 teams consisting of 12 contestants from BUCC participated in NSUPC 2007. The mock contest was held on Thursday, 8 November and the actual Programming Contest was held on Friday, 9 November followed by Award giving ceremony. Certificates can be seen from: [http://192.168.0.84/bucc/BUCC Events/2007 Fall/NSU Computer Programming 2007/](http://192.168.0.84/bucc/BUCC%20Events/2007%20Fall/NSU%20Computer%20Programming%202007/)

### **Participated in NDC IT Fair 2007**

On November 23rd, 5 BUCC members went to Notre Dame College (NDC) with one desktop software to display a project, one website for website competition and to participate in programming contest. They were Taufiq Abdur Rahman, Rasel Chowdhury, Sumon Sarkar, Nabila Naushin, Zaki Mohammad Abdul Kareem. Taufiq. Participants displayed a software named, "School Routine Maker" which obtained 1st position. It may be mentioned that the software was also sold to Agakhan School for Tk.18,000 earlier this year. Sumon Sarkar displayed this website <http://www.iiitbd.com> which also obtained 1st position in that category. Taufiq, Rasel and Sumon also attended programming contest. All of the students were from CSE department, 05 batch.

### **BIZ BEE Seminar on Hospitality Industry**

BIZ BEE has invited Mr. ATM Hafizullah, Director of Sales & Marketing, The Westin Hotel, Dhaka on 15th November' 2007, Thursday at AH 709 to share his knowledge and thoughts with the BRACU personnel. An MBA in marketing, Hafizullah began his colorful career with the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel 25 years ago. He was the Ex. Director of Sales & Marketing, Dhaka Sheraton. While his reign there he received "Starwood Asia Pacific Sales Incentive Award 2004" for two consecutive years as he achieved more than 125% sales target. Mr. Hafizullah talked about the history of hotel business in Bangladesh and the current situation of this highly growing industry. His outstanding presentation also included demand - supply scenario of five-star class hotel rooms in Dhaka city, peak and off-peak seasons, an overview of the Westin Hotel, SWOT analysis and promotional activities of the hotel and so forth. He cited the hotel business as the most unpredictable business in the country and shared real examples of hotel marketing from his experience. The seminar was followed by a very lively Q & A session and refreshments. Students and Faculty members from several departments were present in this full house event. The audience felt that it was truly a new and productive learning experience for them and was a great opportunity to listen from one of the most high profile marketing directors of the industry.

Welcoming the Freshers and BIZ BEE Annual Awards Ceremony, Fall 07 On the 16th November 2007, BIZ BEE organized a fresher's welcoming session for the current Fall 07 semester. The honorable advisor of this club Mr. Ashique Khan and the existing BIZ BEE members were present in this charming program. A regular BIZ BEE member Abdullah Tahir Chowdhury introduced BIZ BEE to the newcomers and explained the various aspects and activities of this club to date. Then the advisor in his pithy but exhilarating speech emphasized on team spirit, loyalty and self-confidence. Moreover, he enunciated why Biz Bee is such a successful club without any hierarchical structure. In addition to the fresher welcoming program, the adviser gave away certificates to the five quizmasters who conducted the BIZ QUIZ Competition 2007 that took place a month ago with Ms. Nadia Khan winning the "Best Quizmaster Award". Finally, the adviser awarded "BIZ BEE Coordinator of the Year Award 2007" to Mr. Moinul Hossain (Ronny) for his outstanding performance throughout the year as a leader and organizer. The adviser promised that each year BIZ BEE would reward its outstanding activists with certificates and honor for their contribution, devotion and self-motivated activities. All-in-all this program was a success - it made the existing members united and the new members acquainted with others.

### **BIZ BEE Seminar on "Career Building"**

BIZ BEE held a seminar on "Career Building" on Thursday, November 22, 2007 at AH 709 conducted by Mr. Sheikh Tashfeen Islam, the Learning & Development Manager of Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh Limited. He started the seminar in a very interesting manner, which set the tone of the whole seminar and presented a brief background of his educational and previous working experience. Then, Mr. Tashfeen Islam tried to share his versatile and valuable knowledge about the key factors of career building. He talked about some critical aspects of a future graduate like having specific career objective, the apt method of writing a CV, Do's & Don't before facing the interview boards etc. He put special emphasis on the importance of being aware of the contemporary world through newspapers, textbooks, news and business channels, business magazines etc. The participants thanked Mr. Islam for sharing his valued thoughts. As the atmosphere of the seminar was informal and interactive, many students participated in it without reservation.

### **MONON - A New Club of BRACU**

"Think in depth"- Keeping this view a new club 'Monon' was inaugurated on 28th November 2007. This club is aimed to create an opportunity for the students of the university where they will be able to explore their mind, share their feelings and replenish them. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, inaugurated the opening ceremony of the club. Ms. Mahbuba Naznin Sani, Lecturer of the Department of ESS is working as advisor to the club.

### **Faculty Participation in a Course on Health Equity**

Ms. Afifa Shahrin, Lecturer, ESS has completed a course on 'Health Equity', organized by World Bank Institute, James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University and ICCDR, B. This course has been adapted for participants from Bangladesh and was held on Nov11 - 15, 2007 at BRAC Centre, Mohakhali, Dhaka.

### **BRAC Visit by the Students of Bangladesh Studies**

As part of the academic program of Bangladesh Studies course, the students of the residential semester of BRAC University visited different programs of BRAC at Manikganj and Gazipur on 10th and 17th November 2007. They visited the health, education, human and legal rights and micro credit program of BRAC. They have also visited Ayesha Abed Foundation of BRAC, Manikganj. Faculty members of ESS accompanied the students.

### **Dr. Mridul Kanti Chakrabarty's Visit to TARC, Savar**

Dr. Mridul Kanti Chakrabarty, singer and professor of Music and Drama, Dhaka University gave a guest lecture on Bangla Music for the students of Bangladesh Studies, at TARC, Savar. He discussed the contribution of the 'Five Poets' of Bengali Music and also discussed about modern Bengali music. He along with some other faculty members of his department rendered some Bengali songs for the students.

## **Department of English and Humanities**

### **Writing workshop**

The writing lab at the Department of English and Humanities organized a daylong writing workshop for the students of ENH on Saturday, the 10th of November 2007. Supervised by Tabassum Zaman and Mahmudul Huq, faculty members of the department, the workshop was conducted by the writing lab tutors, who are students of the department, to help students strengthen their hold on basic academic writing skills and bridge the gap between their knowledge and performance in class. Students from both undergraduate and graduate levels took part in the workshop.

### **Talk on "Feminism and Literature" by Dr. Radha Chakravarty**

Dr. Radha Chakravarty Associate Professor, Department of English, Gargi College, University of Delhi and recipient of the Dr. Radhakrishnan Memorial Award was invited by the Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University to speak on "Feminism and Literature" on the 12th Nov.'07. Dr. Chakravarty addressed a roomful of highly attentive audience comprising students, teachers and guests from other Universities. Her lecture was followed by a very lively questions & answers session. Later, the speaker had a more casual interaction with the guests over tea.

### **Students Visit DU Theatre Festival**

Students of ENG 217: Shakespeare and ENG 114: Introduction to English Drama, from the Department of English and Humanities visited the ongoing Dhaka University Theatre Festival at TSC auditorium, on 22nd of November, 2007. They watched Samuel Beckett's widely acclaimed play "Waiting for Godot", organized and produced by the students of the Department of Dramatics and Music, Dhaka University. Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, Tabassum Zaman and Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury, faculty members of ENH accompanied the students.

## **BRAC School of Public Health**

### **Courses on Healthcare Financing**

World Health Organization is supported two consecutive short courses on Health Care Financing in Bangladesh for Upazila-level health and family planning officials. Each course was for two weeks, the first one started November 4th. The courses dealt with the dynamics of decision-making in allocation of financial resources for health. In short, it discussed the fundamental principles of health economics as well as that of healthcare financing in the context of Bangladesh. Professor Anwar Islam coordinated the course.

### **Course on Health Equity**

The School in collaboration with World Bank and the World Bank Institute, Washington DC and the ICCDR, B offered the second course on Equity in Health tailored for participants from Bangladesh. It was a five-day course for the health sector managers, government officials and public health experts involved in health sector reform from November 11th - 15th, 2007 at BRAC Center.

Poverty and social inequality impact on the performance of health systems, and conversely, the design of the health system has the potential to improve the welfare of the poor and reduce social inequalities. This course aimed to share knowledge and policy experience on how health systems can mitigate the effects of poverty and improve equity in the financing and delivery of health care services.

The course was facilitated by Dr. Davidson Gwatkin of the World Bank, Dr Richard Cash of Harvard University, Dr. Abbas Bhuiya of ICCDR,B and Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury of BRAC University. This course was the second after successful completion of the first course held in June 2007. This course had 38 participants involving midlevel government officials, health experts working in different NGOs, private universities, donor agencies and private sector. This course is the second after successful completion of the first course held in June 2007.

### **Publication**

The school is bringing out a Monograph Series on the following topic areas

- Menstrual Problems of Women in Bangladesh
- Reproductive tract infections and sexually transmitted infections of women in Bangladesh: A Literature Review
- Violence against women in Bangladesh: Situational Analysis/Existing Interventions
- Existing Reproductive and Sexual Health Interventions to Young People in South Asia
- Sexuality Rights Workshop February 2007 Report

### **Seminar**

Dr. Lincoln Chen, founder and director of the Global Equity Center at Harvard Kennedy School of Government and President of China Medical Board of New York presented a seminar on "The Human Resources Crossroads for Health: Field and Policy Action" on November 29th at the Sasakawa Auditorium of ICDDR,B.

### **Faculty News**

Dr. Shahaduz Zaman, MPH Coordinator and Associate Professor, attended the Inter Country Meeting on Public Health, Yangon, Myanmar, Organized by WHO at Yangon, Myanmar during 7-9 November 2007. This meeting was to share experiences of running public health institutions in South Asia. I presented the teaching approach of BRAC School of Public. Other participating institutes included, Mahidol University, Thailand, University of Colombo, Srilanka, University of Indonesia, and University of Hong Kong.

Dr. Farhana Sultana, Research Associate, attended the 38th Union World Conference on Lung Health held in Cape Town, South Africa from November 8-12. Three thousand delegates and leaders in TB control attended the conference. The latest research and developments in TB control were announced during the 5-day conference.

Mahrukh Mohiuddin, Research Associate, attended a workshop on Gender, Media and Representation from November 11-15, jointly organized by Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Program and Development Studies Program of BRAC University.

Dr. Kausar Iqbal, Research Associate, attended the Scientific Writing Workshop from November 26-28, jointly organized by FRONTIERS Program of Population Council and World Health Organization.

## **Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) Department**

### **Seminar Organized by the MNS Department**

Ms. Moushumi Zahur, Lecturer of Geography at the Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences gave a seminar entitled "Solid Waste Management of Dhaka- Community Compost Projects" on Thursday, November 8, 2007, at 11.00 am in Room ST 603. Faculty members of MNS and other departments and some students attended the seminar.

### **Lecture at the 15th Astronomy Workshop**

Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed delivered a lecture at the 15th Astronomy Workshop, which was jointly organized by the Bangladesh Astronomical Association and the Russian Science and Culture Centre at its office at House # 510, Road # 7, Dhanmondhi R/A, Dhaka-1209 on Saturday November 3, 2007. The topic of the lecture was "The Universe and its Process of Evolution".

The origin of the universe, its contents and evolution, and its ultimate fate were outlined in the lecture. The cosmological notion of space and time, elements of special and general theory of relativity of Einstein were explained to the audience most of whom were students of different schools and colleges. Contribution of Professor Subramaniam Chandrasekar in cosmology and that of Professor Meghnad Saha in astrophysics were highlighted. After the lecture a question-answer session was held, which was actively participated by the participants in the workshop. The participants evinced keen interest in the subject and were very eager to learn about the field of astrophysics and cosmology. Professor Ahmed also informed the participants about the BS Programme in Physics offered at BRAC University.

### **Participation in Conference**

Mr. Anisur Rahaman, Lecturer of Physics at the Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences attended The 16th Asian Conference of Radiological Technologists ( ACRT) & 9th National Conference of Indian Association of Radiological Technologists (NCIART), held at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, India from 15-18 November, 2007. He presented a paper entitled "Manual and treatment planning system based dosimetry in remote afterloading brachytherapy" which evoked a lot of interest amongst the participants.

### **Visit to SPARRSO and BMD**

BRAC University Club of Natural Sciences (BUNSC) organized a study tour to the Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO) and the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD). The tour was scheduled on November 14, 2007 and a team of about twenty-five including students and faculty members set off to Agargaon. SPARRSO was established in 1980 as an autonomous organization and it is now operating under the Ministry of Defence. Although space technology application work is being carried out in the country from 1968, SPARRSO was created formally in 1980 as a multisectoral R and D organization for peaceful applications of space science and technology. At SPARRSO, a presentation was made regarding its ongoing activities in various sectors. Students were told about the advanced technology that is being used to monitor disasters and the environment. The visitors were also told about the wide range of applications of remote sensing and the accuracy with which it operates. The list of on-going activities at SPARRSO was very impressive. The commonly held notion that remote sensing could only be used for weather forecasting was corrected, as the range of application of this technology is really very wide. In Bangladesh, remote sensing applications are made in the sectors of agriculture, fisheries, water resources, forestry, land use etc. It is also used for disaster monitoring by estimating the damage due to natural calamities such as cyclones, tornados, floods, droughts etc. It played a vital role in estimating damages caused by major floods and cyclones throughout the history of Bangladesh. Remote sensing technique coupled with GIS is used in preparing maps and monitoring water bodies of Bangladesh to be used in any detailed study, including the drainage pipe plan. After the elucidation of such amazing facts, a lively discussion followed. Queries were answered in detail. The team was later taken on a brief tour of the organization and went round the laboratories observing the ground station in operation. The second part of the visit was made to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, which is spread over a large span of land with its landmark- the globe- on top of the building. Once the team was there a short presentation was made about the Department and how it operates. Bangladesh Meteorological Department is a government institution, under the Ministry of Defence and runs metrological activities in the country. The long process of

collecting data, recording it, analyzing it and then finally passing it on to respective sectors was explained. The visiting students and faculty were shown the different observatory equipment used for weather monitoring and forecasting. The Department maintains many state-of-the-art observatories for both surface and upper level round the clock observation of numerous features of the environment. There were about 35 interesting equipment including devices that measure the temperature at different distances under the ground, equipment that takes humidity readings and so on. The data from these observatories are collected in coded form and printed using a tele-printer and can only be decoded by trained personnel. There is an ongoing exchange of data between neighboring countries for proper forecasting. Then the visiting team went to the forecasting room, which was humming with activity with the then impending cyclone Sidr. It was fascinating to see the image of the cyclone that was approaching Bangladesh from the south. The power of the cyclone could be sensed within that room with people rushing to and from with data. It was very impressive to see how data was collected and instantly sent to relevant centers for further study. To forecast the weather of Bangladesh a wide range of data had to be collected from a region extending from Middle East to Japan. The data is manually mapped onto the atlases of the respective countries. These maps are created round the clock to properly estimate or forecast the weather of Bangladesh and are stored in the Department's archive for any further study. The students came back with a deep sense of pride in the fact that such highly technical R& D organizations are functioning in our country and rendering great service to the people.

## **Residential Semester TARC Savar**

### **Inter Dorm Competition**

Football: On November 05, 2007, inter dorm football match was played between two dormitories, Nikunjo VS Krisnochura. The match was played in a very friendly atmosphere. Nikunjo and Krisnochura both score 2.

Handball: On November 11 the inter-dorm Handball competition was held among the girls Dorms. Surjorosmi became champion by defeating other two dorms while Surjodoy became runner-up. Raska became the best handball player.

Cricket - Boys: The inter-dorm final Cricket competition was held on November 22, among the boys Dorms. Nikunjo became champion by defeating other two dorms while Maloncho became runners-up and Tonmoy became best cricketer in Fall-07.

Volleyball: On November 12 and 19, the inter-dorm volleyball competition was held among the boys Dorms. Maloncho became champion by defeating other two dorms.

Cricket - Girls: On November 25, 26, and 27, the inter dorm girls cricket competition was held among the girls dorms. Surjoroshmi became champion by defeating other two dorms while Surjodoy became runner-up. Again Raska became the best cricketer and she is the only one player who scores 112 runs with 11 over boundaries in the RS semester. Debate Competition: On November 26, the inter-dorm debate competition was conducted successfully. Maloncho became champion and Surjalok became runner up.

Guest lecturer: Bangla Music and Musical Soiree by Professor of Music, Dhaka University, Dr. Mridul Kanti Chakrabarty at 7.00 pm on 21 November 2007 was held at Markuli Hall. Musical Soiree was followed by a lecture where Dr. Chakrabarty and other guest singers performed. ESS arranged the lecture as part of their academic activities of DEV-101.

### **RS Dinner**

The 1st RS Dinner of the semester was held on November 14, 2007. Ms. Naila Chowdhury, Chairperson/CEO, HIIT was the Guest of Honor. The guest gave a speech on "professional career development" and conducted the question answer session. On behalf of the students, Fahmida Akter, the Semester Secretary received the guest and gave welcome speech. The Campus Super concluded the session with vote of thanks to the guest and others. Mr. Fazlul Hoque, Program Coordinator and Mr. Hamiduzzaman, Program Manager of Training Division were present in the session. Asif Ahmed students of BBS facilitated the session. A dinner party followed the session.

### **CS visit the Sidr Affected Area**

The Campus Super visited the cyclone-affected people of some parts of Barisal, Jhalokati and Perojpur districts. He met the flood-affected people of those areas. He said, "it was beyond my realization before going there practically how much affected the people are. All the crops (Paddy) including vegetable, trees, fishes are badly damaged. Most of the kancha and tin shed houses are fully or partially damaged. I visited

the village market. There are no vegetables and fishes at all in the market. The prices of the commodities are very high. A few initiatives for distributing relief have been seen in some of the areas."

### **Gift for Cyclone affected people**

In response to the announcement of BRACU, The students of RS, the Faculties, the staff of BRACU and TARC donated a good amount of money. Clothes, dry foods, water bottles for the cyclone victims. All those gifts have been sent to BRACU mahakhali campus.

### **TARC Performance**

A total of 384 participants received training on different subjects from TARC Savar under 16 training courses. The areas of training were; TOT, Monitoring & Evaluation, Operations Management, Planning, and Life skills for IG,. The participants were mostly from the different programs of BRAC. Besides, 30 participants were from Save the Children and two groups Teachers and School Management Committee (SMC) members of Secondary High Schools have been received training from TARC Savar. A group of 25 adolescent girls received training on beautician under BRAC's life skills program.

## **BRAC University Institute of Educational Development (BU-IED)**

### **Dr. Manzoor Ahmed at Istanbul Conference on Education and Empowerment of Women**

Director of BU-IED, Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, was invited to share Bangladesh and BRAC experience and challenges in respect of gender discrimination and promoting women's empowerment through education. ACEV ( Mother and Child Foundation), Istanbul Policy Centre and Sabanci University, with the support of European Union, organized the conference on 15 November, 2007 with the aim of formulating creative strategies and approaches for Turkey. Turkish scholars and activists in education and women's development evinced keen interest in the scaling up of innovative approaches by BRAC and expressed the wish for systematic exchange and sharing of experiences.

### **BU-IED at Review of National Primary Education Development**

A civil society consultation during midterm review of the Second Primary Education Development Programme of the country (PEDP II) was organized by Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) & Education Watch Group in the LGED Auditorium on 5 November 2007. Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Director, BU-IED and Member of Education Watch Advisory Board chaired the meeting. About 120 participants including concerned government agencies, particularly, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MOPME), Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), civil society groups, researchers, development partners, persons of different print and electronic media, academicians, and national and international NGO personnel attended the consultation.

Apart from a presentation of progress in PEDP II by Chowdhury Muffad Ahmed, Joint Programme Director, Mr. Musharraf Hussain Bhuiya, Secretary of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, and Mr. K. M. Asaduzzaman, the Director General of Primary Education, responded to comments from the audience. On behalf of the donors, Ms Hua Du, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank, Steffan Lock, Chair of the PEDPII Donors Consortium and Brajesh Panth, ADB Programme Manager for PEDP II, spoke.

### **Workshop on Non-Formal Education**

In collaboration with UNESCO, BU-IED organized two workshops on institutional capacity building in non-formal education. The first workshop, titled "Planning and Implementation of Monitoring in literacy/NFE Programs", took place in BRAC Centre Inn on November 4-7, 2007, and the other on "Utilization of Research Findings in NFE/literacy Programs" on November 12-15, 2007. Each workshop, with an aim to enhance competencies in the domain of Non-Formal Education/ Literacy monitoring and evaluation, attracted about 30 officials, policymakers and other stakeholders from the Bureau of Non-Formal Education and various non-governmental organizations.

### **Seminars on Learning Assessment Technique**

David Dean, Monitoring and Training Advisor, Teaching Quality Improvement (TQI) in Secondary Education Project, gave a seminar in two parts on "Items Response Theory" on November 15 and 29, 2007 in BU-IED conference room. The presentation concerned construction of tests and ensuring their validity and reliability for better learning assessment in primary and secondary education. David is presently working with BU-IED

in the capacity of consultant on learning assessment.

### **Institutional Study Visit to Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED)**

A team of four staff members from BU-IED: Jahirul Islam Mullick, Dilruba Sultana, Kazi Sameeo Sheesh and Ali Md. Shahiduzzaman, visited Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED) from October 28 to November 03, 2007. The purpose of the visit was to study the academic and professional development programme of the Institute, examine its vision and strategies, and explore opportunities for future collaboration. The visit is expected to strengthen both institutes' mutually beneficial relationship in the area of education and development in the context of developing countries.

### **Early Childhood Development**

Ms. Mahmuda Akhter, the head of Early Childhood Development Resource Centre at BRAC University Institute of Educational Development visited Canada for a seminar series organized by Aga Khan Foundation Canada. As an Early Childhood Development

Leader in Bangladesh, she presented on the progress that Bangladesh has made in Early Childhood Development and the challenges Bangladesh faces in scaling up its educational services and equipping future generations to manage the country's development.

Starting from November 2nd to November 15 she presented at the University of Ottawa (Ontario), Dalhousie University (Halifax, Nova Scotia), McGill University (Montreal, Quebec), University of Waterloo (Ontario), Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology (Toronto), University of Toronto, University of Calgary (Alberta) and University of British Columbia (Vancouver).

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