

2005/january

## **SIT Provost Visit BU**

Ms. Paula Harbecke, the Provost of School of International Training (SIT) visited BU on January 27, 2005. Her agenda was to evaluate Global Partnership (GP) program. She also held discussions with BU for more collaboration between BU and SIT. Professor J R Choudhury VC BU and GP faculty members were present in the meeting.

## **Spring Semester 2005**

BU Spring Semester 2005 commenced from January 26, 2005.

## **Eid Vacation**

BU remained closed on account of Eid-ul-Azha from January 20-25, 2005.

## **VC in World Conference on Disaster Reduction**

Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU participated in the "World Conference on Disaster Reduction" held in Kobe, Japan, from 18-22 January, 2005. He made a presentation on "Recent Developments in Disaster Risk Assessment and Vulnerability Reduction in Dhaka City" in the session titled "Models of Disaster Risk Assessment for Megacities", organized by the EMI (Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative) and RCUSS (Research Center for Urban Safety & Security), Kobe University, Japan.

## **Grade Sheet Available at BU Website**

The Grade sheets of all Semesters were hosted at BU website on January 16, 2005.

## **BU Launched Arch.KIDS Workshop Series for Children**

Department of Architecture of BU has launched a workshop series on architecture and environment for children - Arch.KIDS [Architecture for KIDS at BRAC University) on January 15, 2005, which has the long-term goal of creating awareness on issues of environment, architecture, city, environmental behaviour and management and urban development; and for building a knowledge-based young society. Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU, who is also the patron of Arch.KIDS, inaugurated the workshop with the strong hope that through the series of workshops today's children will have a chance to learn how our future city would look, and how the new generation would prepare themselves to tackle tomorrow's environmental crises in order to contribute towards a sustainable city. Arch.KIDS coordinator Dr. Q M Mahtab-uz-Zaman; advisors Prof. Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson, Department of Architecture and Dr. Zainab F. Ali along with other faculty members and students of architecture organized the workshop.

## **Advising and Registration for Spring 2005**

The Advising and registration for students for the Spring 2005 semester took place from January 13 to 19, 2005.

## **Orientation Program**

The Orientation Program for new students (Spring 2005) was held in BRAC Centre Inn on January 9, 2005. The program included welcome address by Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU presentation on "BU Environment, Culture and Facilities" by the Registrar and the introduction to the Departments of BU by the Chairpersons of the Departments. The inauguration session was followed by a get-together arranged for the new students and their parents, teachers and administrative staff of BU.

## **Faculty Member Participate in Workshop**

Ms. Faria Huq, Lecturer, Department of Economics and Social Science, participated in and completed a three-day workshop organized by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) on "WTO and Bangladesh". The event was the fifth in a series of policy appreciation workshops held by the CPD workshop and was held from January 4-6, 2005 at the CIRDAP auditorium. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness regarding challenges emerging from the process of globalization and coping strategies for Bangladesh.

## **MoI between BU and Massey University & AIS, New Zealand**

A Memorandum of Intent (MoI) was signed between BU and Massey University & Auckland Institute of Studies (AIS), New Zealand on January 05, 2005. According to this 4-year MoI both institutions wish to establish a formal cooperative relationship with the purpose of assisting each institution to become more diversified and in attaining educational and organizational objectives. Professor J R Choudhury VC BU and Dr. Mohammad Abdur Rashid of Massey University and AIS, New Zealand signed on behalf of their respective universities.

## **Workshop on "Excellence in Teaching"**

Dr. Kauser Jahan, an Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Rowan University, New Jersey, USA facilitated a workshop on "Excellence in Teaching" for educators. The workshop covered topics like: principles of effective teaching and learning, learning styles, communication skills, learning objectives, class organization and course organization, development of interpersonal rapport with students, teaching with technology, course assessment techniques and meeting accreditation criteria. A skilled environmental engineer with a passion for research, Dr. Jahan has been successful in securing over \$2 million in funded grants for her work on pollution prevention and innovative teaching. She is the Director of the Attracting Women into Engineering (AWE) program. Dr. Jahan has over a hundred publications in research and educational methods. Professor J R Choudhury VC BU, Chairpersons and senior faculty members attended the 3-day workshop (January 3-5, 2005)

## **Admission Test-2, Spring 2005**

The results of Admission Test-2 for Graduate and Undergraduate programs were announced on January 2, 2005. Interview of the selected candidates were conducted on January 4 and 5, 2005. The names of candidates finally selected for the Graduate & Undergraduate programs were announced on January 6, 2005

## **LLB Program Re-designated**

BU LLB Program has been re-designated as LLB (Hons). This change has been approved by UGC. The confirmation in this regard was received on January 5, 2005.

## **ICT Seminar at BU**

A seminar on Appropriate Information Technology was held on January 3, 2005 at BRAC Centre Auditorium on the following topics: "The Case for Technology for Developing Regions" by Professor Eric A. Brewer,

Associate Professor of Computer Science, UC Berkeley & "Creating sustainable information technology, products, and services" by Mr. Greg Wolff, Vice President of Ricoh Innovations and a 2004-2005 fellow in the Digital Vision program at Stanford University. Dr. Eric Brewer focused on all aspects of Internet-based systems, including technology, strategy, and government. As a researcher, he has led projects on scalable servers, search engines, network infrastructure, wireless data services and security. Mr. Greg Wolff is a 2004-2005 fellow in the Digital Vision program at Stanford with training in cognitive psychology from MIT and Carnegie Mellon University and 15 years experience in research and development, creating tools to support team work. Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU presided over the meeting. BU faculty members, senior officials of BRAC and IT professionals were present.

## **New Faculty Members at BU**

Mr. Hanif Mahtab jointed the MGB Department on January 17, 2005. He completed his BBA from IBA and MBA from Birmingham University, UK.

Mr. Anisur Rahman Faroque jointed the MGB Department on January 17, 2005. He obtained BBA and MBA degrees from North South University, Dhaka.

Mr. M Zakir Hossain and Mr. M Toufiqul Islam did their BBA and MBA from Dhaka University. Both joined the MGB Department on January 16, 2005.

Ms. Bushra Tawfiq Chowdhury joined as Lecturer in CSE Department on January 16, 2005. She did her Masters in Security Informatics from John Hopkins University, USA. Earlier she obtained her BSc in Computer Science from Dhaka University.

Ms. Sharmina Hussain joined as Lecturer in MNS Department on January 16, 2005. She did her Masters in Applied Mathematics from Dhaka University and later obtained another Masters from Victoria University, Canada.

Mr. Ridhwanul Haq jointed the MGB Department on January 2, 2005. He did his MBA from Dhaka University and later obtained Masters of Management from Australian National University.

Mr. Maqsd Sobhani jointed the MGB Department on January 2, 2005. He completed his graduation and MBA from Wisconsin-Milwaukee University, USA.