

2005/june

## **ARC Receive Donation from AIA**

The Knowledge Resources Centre of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in Washington DC has donated 35 boxes of books, journal, and periodicals to the Department of Architecture. They have also paid for the air freight and handling charges of the entire consignment. The process of this donation was initiated by Mohammed Yousuf Biswas a Bangladeshi Architect working in Washington and made possible through Dr. Richard Hayes, Managing Director of the Knowledge Resources Centre. The consignment reached Dhaka on June 30, 2005

## **SPH Students Completed First Part**

The MPH Students have successfully completed the first part of the Health Systems Management course on 'Health, Health Systems and Management,' taught by Dr. Anwar Islam. The second block of the course is Organizational Behaviour and Management, which began on June 29, 2005.

## **SPH Launched the Report on Human Development**

The School of Public Health (SPH) launched the report on 'Human Development in South Asia 2004: The Health Challenge' on June 29, 2005, at BRAC Centre Inn. The Executive Director of BRAC, Mr. Abdul Mueeed Chowdhury was the chair of the program, with welcome and introductory speeches given by SPH International Director, Dr. Demissie Habte. Chief Guest, Dr. Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, Principal Secretary to the Honourable Prime Minister, Ms. Khadija Haq, President of the Human Development Centre, Dr. Duang Vadee Sungkhobol, World Health Organization Representative and Mr. AFM Sarwar Kamal, Secretary, MoHFW and the Special Guest of the Program also spoke on the occasion.

## **ARC Students Get Professional Training in India**

Md. Nafisur Rahman and Amir Ibn Sharif 4th year students of Architecture are to undergo their Practical Training course (ARC 300) at Vastu Shilpa Consultants in Ahmedabad, India. The firm was founded by the world famous Indian Architect Balakrishna V Doshi, the other principals of the organisation are Rajeev Kathpalia and Radhika Doshi Kathpalia. Professor Doshi is an advisor to the Department and has visited BU twice since 2002. The students left Dhaka on June 29, 2005 and will spend 8 weeks in Ahmedabad, India.

## **US Dy Asst Secy Visit BU**

The Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, United States of America, Mr. John Anthony Gastright, paid a brief visit to the School of Law, BU on June 29, 2005. He held discussions with the Director of the School, Dr. Shahdeen Malik and faculty member Dr. Saira Rahman Khan, on legal and judicial affairs in Bangladesh and South Asia and about law and Justice as well as training programs for lawyers and judges in Bangladesh.

## **Study Trip to Dhaka University**

Department of Architecture, BU, organized a study trip to Curzon Hall, Dhaka University for the students of the Freshmen II on June 29, 2005. The main objective of the trip was to let the students be familiar with our colonial heritage. Students studied the architectural features of the buildings and did some sketches. Two design studio teachers accompanied the 19 students on this half-day tour.

## **Networking Session**

The Career Service Office at BU organized a Networking Session on June 27, 2005. Mr. Dinesh Bidappa, Head of HR in Unilever, Bangladesh conducted the Program. Forty five students of BBA Program attended the session. Mr. Bidappa explained the recruitment process of Unilever and responded to students' questions regarding HR issues and what the employers look for the entry-level positions.

## **A Seminar on "Biotechnology Research and Practice in Bangladesh"**

The Department of Mathematics and Natural Science (MNS), BU, organised a seminar on "Biotechnology Research and Practice in Bangladesh" on June 25, 2005 at BRAC Centre Inn, Conference Room. Dr. M. Osman Farruk MP, Honourable Minister for Education was present as the Chief Guest and Mr. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir MP, Honourable State Minister for Agriculture was the Special Guest. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BU presided over the program.

## **Faculty Member Participate in Workshop**

Mr. Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, lecturer, ARC, BU, participated in a weeklong (June 16-22, 2005) workshop on Sustainable Solutions for the Management of Urban Wetlands--Urban wetlands need preservation and restoration in order to help control local flooding and put a stop to the rapidly deteriorating ecology of the area due to industrial waste disposal, encroachment and land grabbing by developers and squatters. The focus of the workshop was Begunbari Khal of Dhaka city. Hasibul Kabir made a presentation on Ecological landscape style: Planting design in the floodplains of Bangladesh.

## **CS Dinner**

Professor A H Wahiduddin Mahmud of Dhaka University and a Member of BU Governing Board was the Guest of Honour at the Campus Super's Dinner at the BU Campus, TARC, Savar on June 22, 2005. Ms. Simeen Mahmud, Senior Research Fellow BIDS attended the program as the Special Guest. All students of the RS attended the dinner. Professor Abdur Rab, Chair MGB, Brigadier (Retired) Shafaat Ahmed (CS) and Dr. Yousuf M Islam, Academic Coordinator also attended the program. Professor Mahmud, while addressing the students, explained the role of an Economist in a developing country like Bangladesh while Ms. Simeen Mahmud advised the students to get involved in research work at an appropriate time of their student life.

## **Professional Skills Development Program**

The First Class of Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) for BBA students started on June 22, 2005. PSDP has been designed differently for the BBA students, putting more emphasis on image building.

## **Lecture on Management**

At the invitation of the BU, Mr. Kamrul Islam, Procurement Coordinator, the World Bank Group (WBG), Bangladesh, Dhaka Office delivered a lecture on "Procurement and Disbursement: Issues & Management of the World Bank Group" on June 20, 2005. This guest lecture was part of a seminal work for the advance Finance course Project Appraisal and Management. Mr. Islam cited various issues arising out of the daily management of WBG projects starting from budget preparation to selection of consultants and payment to consultants for goods and services. Following presentation, Mr. Islam and responded to questions from the students with examples and critics. It was a lively interaction between the presenter and the senior students of the University.

## **Guest Lecturer**

Department of English and Humanities invited eminent writer Selina Hossain for a seminar on June 22, 2005 at BU Campus, TARC Savar. As a part of English 366 Course, Ms. Hossain took part in a discussion on 'Women and Writing' with the students of English department in which she talked about her own writing and the issues that a Bengali writer is involved with in contemporary Bangladesh. All students of the Residential Semester took part in the hour long seminar. The title of the seminar was 'Women's issues in Bangladesh', and the whole session was in the form of open discussion with questions from students.

### **Dr. Mumit Attends PAN Localization Meeting**

Dr. Mumit Khan, Associate Professor, CSE attended the PAN Localization Training and IDRC Partners Meeting held in Cambodia from June 19-25, 2005. Mr. Sajib Das Gupta and Mr. Asif Iqbal Sarker both Research Programmers at BU attended the Training part of the Seminar.

### **Seminar on "Successes and Failures of the Use of Technology In Education"**

Department of CSE organised a seminar on "Successes and Failures of the Use of Technology In Education" on June 15, 2005. Ashraful A Chowdhury, Associate Professor, Computer Science/Math, Georgia Perimeter College, USA was the keynote speaker. Mr. Chowdhury shared his experiences and lessons learnt using various technologies in face-to-face, hybrid and online courses. He also shed light on successes and potential failures of technology in teaching online courses. He demonstrated common features of his own online course using WebCT - the world's leading provider of e-learning systems for higher education. He also displayed basics of CourseCompass - an interactive online teaching and learning environment and Moodle -a free, open source course management software package designed to help educators create effective online learning communities.

### **Governing Board Meeting**

The 15th Governing Board meeting was held on June 14, 2005 in the BU Conference Room. Mr. F H Abed, Chairperson BRAC and President BU Governing Board presided over the meeting.

### **Dean SPH offered Appointment at Columbia University**

Dr. A. Mushtaque R. Chowdhury, Deputy Executive Director, BRAC and Dean of James P Grant School of Public Health BU has been offered appointment as Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health, Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University on June 13, 2005. The appointment is recognition of Dr. Chowdhury's "excellent accomplishments in public health and [Dr. Chowdhury's] potential to contribute in the future." Previously Dr. A. Mushtaque R. Chowdhury was a visiting professor at Columbia University.

### **Webstar University Staff Visit BU**

Ms. Nicola Hewett, Director Admission, Webstar University, Thailand Campus, visited BU on June 8, 2005. She was received by Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Student Affairs Officer, Dr. Zainab F. Ali, Director Student Affairs, welcomed Ms. Hewett and introduced her to the students. A large number of students attended the session on the programs and facilities of Webstar University, Thailand at the BU cafeteria. Ms. Hewett also met the Registrar, BU and Professor Abdur Rab, Chair, MGB and discussed issues of mutual interests.

### **Club Fair**

Club Fair Summer Semester, 2005 was held at BU Indoor Games Complex on June 8, 2005. Professor J R

Choudhury VC, BU inaugurated the Fair. Different clubs, forums and societies of BU set up 14 stalls. The Fair was organized under the supervision of BU Student Affairs Office.

## **Makeup Final Exams, Spring 2005**

The Make-up Final Exams of Spring 2005 were held between June 7 to 13, 2005

## **Summer Semester, 2005 Begins**

Summer Semester 2005 began with all regular activities on June 5, 2005. The students departed for Residential Semester (Summer 2005) in BU Campus, TARC, Savar on June 04, 2005.

## **VC Attends Working Group Meeting at Chinese Academy of Sciences**

Professor J. R. Choudhury attended the first working group meeting of IAP (Inter-Academy Panel) initiative of "Natural Disaster Mitigation" organized by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, at Simatai, the foot of the Great Wall, Beijing, June 4-5, 2005. The working group discussed the draft document "GLOBAL NATURAL DISASTER AND DISASTER REDUCTION" prepared by CAS. Representatives from Academies of Sciences of Bangladesh, India, Japan, Nigeria and Sweden attended the Meeting. The IAP Working Group includes representatives from Academies of Sciences from Australia, Bangladesh, China, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nigeria, Sweden, UK and USA.

## **Paper Accepted in India and US**

The Global Health Forum (focuses on Poverty, Equity and Health Research) is being held in Mumbai from 12 to 16 September 2005. There were over 500 papers received for consideration in the Forum 9 program. An invited paper on the James P Grant School of Public Health authored by SPH Dean, Mushtaque A. Chowdhury, Dean JPGSPH will appear in the Global Forum Health Research book. The paper on James P Grant School of Public Health authored by Mushtaque Chowdhury has also been accepted for presentation at the American Public Health Association to be held in New Orleans in November 2005.

Ms. Sabina Faiz Rashid's paper on 'Social Exclusion in Accessing Resources - the complex dynamics of health and equity among urban slum dwellers in Bangladesh,' was accepted as a Poster presentation for the Global Health Forum in Mumbai.

## **New Appointment**

Dr. Anwarul Hoque joined BU as a visiting faculty with the status of a Professor and Chairperson (current charge) of the Department of ESS on June 2, 2005. He will also oversee the MDS Program. Dr. Hoque obtained his Ph.D. from Michigan State University, USA in 1977. He had taught in different US universities for about 22 years. Dr. Hoque has been an Economist in Research Service of the US Department of Agriculture prior to joining his current appointment in BU. Dr. Hoque has more than 100 publications in different International Journals on issues related to Agricultural Economics, Intellectual Property Rights and WTO.

Mr. Abu Zafar Md Shahriar joined as Lecturer in ESS on June 12, 2005. He completed MA in Economics from Dhaka University.