

2005/march

Independence Day Celebration

BU Cultural Club organized a program at BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium to celebrate the Independence Day on 29 March 2005. Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU inaugurated the program by welcoming the "Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendro" artists and Mr. Masroorul H. Siddiqi, Bir Uttam along with a brief history of our independence. BU students sang a few chorus songs of the liberation war and then M. H. Siddiqi delivered a very inspiring talk highlighting a few important events during his life as a leader of freedom fighters. In the second part of the program, Md. Abdul Jabbar, National Singer, Shaheen Samad, Bipul Bhattacharya enthralled the audience with patriotic songs broadcast from "Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendro" during the Liberation War in 1971. Students, teachers and invited guests attended the memorable evening.

Lecture on Gender Issues

Ms Shuchi Karim of English department delivered a lecture on "Gender Issues in Bangladesh" to the students of Residential Semester (RS) on March 27, 2005. The lecture that dealt with the current gender issues in Bangladesh was followed by a lively question and answer session.

Student Affairs Committee Meeting

The Monthly Meeting of "Student Affairs Committee" was held on March 27, 2005 at Student Affairs Office.

AIIESEC International Conference

AIIESEC Bangladesh hosted an International Conference on "Asian Pacific Exchange Leadership Development Seminar 2005" at BRAC Center for Development Management (BCDM), Rajendrapur from March 24-30, 2005. Ten members (students) from BU attended the conference as delegates and as members of the Organizing Committee.

Puppet Show

BU Cultural Club organised a Puppet Show by Mr. Mustafa Munawar's Team at BU Campus, TARC, Savar on March 21, 2005. The show covered a wide array of topics that were educative as well as entertaining. The VC BU joined the students and staff of RS and enjoyed the show.

MNS Seminar

Dr. Mahbub Majumdar, Research Associate in Theoretical Physics at the Blackett Lab, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, UK made a presentation on "Cosmic Strings in String Theory" on Monday, March 21, 2005. Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, Chair MNS and teachers of the Department attended the presentation and the Q & A Sessions.

ENH Discussion

The Department of English and Humanities (ENH) organised a reading and discussion session by Edward P. Jones, the Pulitzer Prize winner, for fiction in 2004 on March 20, 2005. The reading and discussion was entitled "Invisible Chains; Pictures of Slavery In Nineteenth-Century America". The reading was followed by a very lively question and answer session in which the students and teachers of the department took part.

BUPC Workshop on Digital Photography

The four day workshop on Digital photography organized by The BRAC University Photography Club (BUPC), was the latest in a series of events promoting innovations in photography and Obaidul Fatah Tanvir who has conducted many workshops and even a course on Visual Representation using digital media at the University of East London (UEL), conducted the workshop. Practicing professional photography for the last 15 years and using digital technology in photography for the last six, he has held many exhibitions at home and abroad and has several publications including Postcards from Bangladesh. The founder member of MAP Photo agency but working independently since 1998, he has worked for many prestigious organizations including UNICEF, DFID and the British Council. The workshop which started on the March 18, 2005 introduced members of the club to everything relevant, starting from picking out the right camera, to technical issues of white balance, shutter speed, aperture, to storing and later using software to manipulate the photos. Sessions outcome included an outing and discourse on the pictures shot in the field, relating to styles, composition, subject matter, image manipulation and portfolio making.

School of Law: Lecture Series Program

Mr. Ridawan Hoque, LL.B. Honors (Dhaka) and LL.M. (Cambridge), currently pursuing his Ph.D. thesis at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University and also an Assistant Professor of Law (on leave) at Chittagong University gave a talk on the "Existing Dominant Legal Theory, Separation of Power and Judicial Activism: A Critical Assessment" as part of Lecture Series Program of the School of Law, BU on March 17, 2005. The Director, Dr. Shahdeen Malik along with other faculty members and students of the School of Law were present. The program ended with a summing-up from the Director of the School of Law and thanking the speaker of the day.

School Visit Program

European Standard School

A six member BU team Headed by Dr. Yusuf M. Islam, Director Research and Advisory Services along with Ms. Saira Rahman Khan, lecturer, School of Law, Ms. Sadia Hamid Kazi, lecturer CSE, Ms. Faria Huq, Lecturer, ESS, Ms Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Student Affairs Officer, Mr. Moudud Sabbir, Assistant System Administrator visited European Standard School (ESS) on March 17, 2005. Mr. Nurul Islam, Principal ESS welcomed the BU team and introduced the team members to the students. 80 senior students of ESS attended a video presentation on BU followed by a question answer session conducted by Dr. Yusuf M. Islam.

Mastermind School

A presentation on BU including video and verbal presentations followed by a lively question-answer session was held for the A and O level students of Mastermind School on March 16, 2005 at the school premise. Ms. Neera Habib, Director of Administration, Mastermind School welcomed the BU team which comprised of Dr. Fuad H. Mallick, Chairperson, ARC, Dr. Zainab F. Ali, Director, Student Affairs, Mr. Tanzir Chowdhury, Lecturer, ESS, Ms. Mafruha Mohua, Lecturer, English and Humanities, Mr. Moudud Sabbir, Assistant System Administrator and Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Student Affairs Officer. Mr. Fakruddin Ahmed, Chairman and Principal of the Mastermind School introduced the BU team to the students. Dr. Ali spoke on the activities of BRAC and about the programs and facilities offered by BU. Dr. Mallick along with Mr. Tanzir Chowdhury, Ms. Mafruha Mohua and Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman responded to the students' queries on BU. Nearly 200 students in two groups attended the interactive seminar.

Maple Leaf International School

As a part of the 'School Visit Program', BU team consisting of Dr. Fuad H. Mallick, Chairperson, ARC, Ms. Bushra T. Chowdhury, Lecturer, CSE, Ms. Afia Arafat, Lecturer, English, Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Student Affairs Officer, Mr. Moudud Sabbir, Asst. System Administrator, Dr. Zainab F. Ali, Director, Student Affairs conducted a BU presentation and Q & A session at the Maple Leaf International School (MLIS) in on March 23, 2005. Mr. Nasir Ahmed, senior teacher and Ms. Kashmiri, Office Executive of the Maple Leaf International School welcomed the BU team. About 50 senior students, teachers of the school attended the session. After the multimedia presentation on BU, Dr Ali introduced the BU team to the students and talked

about BU, it's goals, academic departments, clubs and forums and the Residential Semester. Ms. Rahman briefed the students on different scholarship programs. Dr. Mallick answered questions on admission procedures, credit transfer, and the undergraduate programs in Law and Physics. Ms. Chowdhury spoke on the prospects of jobs for the future graduates of the Electronics and Communication Engineering Program. Ms. Arafat gave a brief introduction on the faculty and curriculum of the English Department.

Global Affairs Forum Presentation

The Global Affairs Forum of BU organised a presentation on "The Role of a Diplomat and Experiences" on March 17 2005. Excellency Ms. Nasim Firdaus, the first career woman Ambassador of Bangladesh and current Ambassador of Bangladesh to Republic of Indonesia conducted the presentation. Ms. Firdaus obtained her Master in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; Master in International and Comparative Law from Vrije University of Brussels; and Master in Science from the College of Home Economics, University of Dhaka. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU, Professor Firdous Azim, Chair ENH, Faculty members and senior students of BU students attended the event.

MGB Seminar

The Department of Management and Business (MGB) of BU organised a seminar on Quality of Bus Service in Dhaka City on March 17, 2005. Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb, Professor and Program Chair at the Sam & Irin Black School of Business at Pennsylvania State University (Erie), USA and Mr. Mahmudul Haq, Senior Lecturer MGB-BU jointly presented the paper at the seminar based on a recent survey. They emphasised the introduction of Bus services that are customer oriented. Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU, Professor Abdur Rab, Chairperson MGB, teachers and students of MGB were present in the Seminar.

JICA Regional Seminar on Tsunami

Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU, attended the "Regional Seminar on Tsunami Early Warning System" to watch country report presentations through its video conference system at JICA Bangladesh office organised by JICA from 7PM to 4PM on March 16, 2005. Participants from Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and other neighbouring countries presented their country reports in the Workshop.

Activity News Letter (ANL)

The first volume of ANLs was published from all four dorms of the BU Campus at TARC Savar on March 16, 2005. These carried short write-ups on RS activities, essays, poems, humour etc. The ANLs are designed to promote the creative writing abilities of students.

House Cup Competition-RS Spring 2005

The House Cup competition (Badminton) of RS Spring 2005 was held on March 14, 2005 at BU Campus, TARC, Savar.

President Attends CGAP Excom Meeting in Paris

Mr. F H Abed, Founder & Chairperson BRAC and President BU Governing Board attended a two-day Excom meeting in Paris that started on March 14, 2005. Among various other issues, the agenda for this Excom meeting included comparing notes on major recent issues, sharing updates on Year of Microcredit, rotations of Excom members and Election of new Chair, Update of major developments in FY05 work plan, major strategic directions for FY06 workplan, the future of CGAP, and budget and funding for CGAP III.

BU Students Visited Liberation War Museum and BRAC Projects

The students of Residential Semester in four groups, accompanied by their House Tutors, visited Liberation War Museum and various BRAC projects on March 12 and 19, 2005. The students were given a guided tour of the museum. They later participated in a quiz competition on the Liberation War. BRAC Training Division conducted the BRAC visits. During the visit the students saw various human development activities initiated by BRAC in Manikgonj and Ghazipur areas.

Education Watch 2003/04 Report

The Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) organised the launching ceremony of the Education Watch 2003/04 Report 'Quality with Equity: The Primary Education Agenda' on March 12, 2005. Dr. M Osman Farruk, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Education was present as a chief guest. Kazi Fazlur Rahman, Advisor, former Caretaker Government made the welcome and introductory remarks. Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Director, BU Institute of Education & Development (IED) also spoke in the ceremony. The ceremony presided was by Mr. A N M Eusuf, Advisor, CAMPE.

IED Workshop

Institute of Education & Development (IED), BU organized a daylong workshop on "The Problems and Prospects in Private Sector in Bangladesh" at BRAC Center Inn on March 12, 2005. Dr. M. Osman Farruk, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Education was present as Chief Guest. Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU, addressed the inaugural session as Special Guest. Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Director IED was the keynote speaker in the working session and Professor Firdous Azim, Chair ENH, BU was a discussant. Chairpersons of English Medium schools in Dhaka attended the workshop.

Campus Super's (CS) Dinner

First CS Dinner of the Spring Semester was held on March 9, 2005 at TARC, Savar. Noted presenter Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Chairperson, Bishwa Shaittya Kendra, was the Guests of Honour. Professor Abdur Rab, Chairperson, MGB and a number of other faculty members attended the dinner. Professor Sayeed addressed the students and urged them to make the best use of the academic and extra-curricular opportunities provided at the Residential Semester to attain their academic objectives.

Governing Board Meeting

The 14th Governing Board Meeting of BU was held on March 8, 2005 in BU Conference Room. Mr. F H Abed, Founder & Chairperson BRAC and President of BU Governing Board chaired the meeting.

BU Cultural Competition

BU cultural Club organised a cultural competition on March 7 and 8, 2005. A number of new talents were discovered in the competition. The two day long event generated great enthusiasm among the students.

VC at UCEP

Internet learning center ILC from non-profit Cyber Schools, Bangladesh was launched at UCEP Dhaka Technical School on March 7, 2005. H E Mr. Harry K. Thomas, the Ambassador of the United States of America to Bangladesh formally launched the program. Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU, Deputy Managing Director of Grameen Phone Ltd. Mr Frank Fodstad and Chairperson of the UCEP Board of Governors Mr. M

Mokammel Haque were also present on the occasion. Cyber Schools Bangladesh is a non-profit organization working education in underprivileged schools with ILC. The ILC provides modern education with help of computers, Internet, online educational resources teachers' training. Professor J R Choudhury, speaking on the occasion as the special guest, emphasized the need for promoting English to tap the full potentials of information and communication technology.

Seminar on Altruistic Economics

The Department of Economics and Social Science (ESS) organised a seminar on "Altruistic Economics" on March 07, 2005. The Keynote speaker was Dr. Robin Upton who has studied a wide range of subjects in UK, Denmark and Germany. He submitted his Ph.D. in Probability & Game Theory to University of Warwick (UK) in 1998. The presentation highlighted a contradiction between the behavior appropriate in the marketplace and behavior appropriate within personal relationships. It introduced an alternative assumption, that people care about one another, and showed how this might be represented in mathematical terms. This core idea was developed into a network-based system of 'altruistic' economics, which allows trading and economic interaction in a similar way to familiar market-based models. The talk had mathematical content of a simple nature. It should be of interest to dissident Economists, Computer Scientists, Sociologists, Psychologists and freethinkers from all backgrounds who are more interested in collaboration than competition. Faculty members and students of ESS and invited guests attended.

IED Seminar

IED BU and Early Childhood Development Resource Centre (ECDRC) jointly organised a seminar on "ECD in Bangladesh: Status and Future Directions" on March 02, 2005. Professor J Reza Choudhury, VC BU and Mr. Erward Thomas Espey, Country Director, PLAN Bangladesh and Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Director, IED BU spoke at the seminar.

Workshop on Nazrul Geeti

Professor J R Choudhury the VC BU inaugurated a workshop on Nazrul Geeti on March 01, 2005. Renowned artist Shaheen Samad conducted the workshop. Members of the BU Cultural Club participated in the workshop with great enthusiasm. The event was open to all and was attended by a number of students, teachers and management staff of BU.

Alliance Magazine Interviewed BU President

Mr. F H Abed, President BU Governing Board was interviewed for publication in the March 2005 issue of the Alliance Magazine. The interview, focusing on social entrepreneurship, highlighted BRAC's success in the development arena, the sustainability of its programs and its success in scaling up to meet national needs. The interview, published in the March 2005 issue of the Alliance can be found online at: <http://www.allavida.org/alliance/mar05e.html> The March issue of the Alliance magazine which ran a special theme of Social Entrepreneurship also included an overview of social entrepreneurship along with articles and studies on various development programs and organizations. Alliance Magazine is a publication of Allavida, established in August 2001 as a merger of Charity Know How (CKH) and Alliance magazine, both of which were formerly part of the Charities Aid Foundation. Currently, Allavida has programs and partnerships spanning three continents, priority areas being the Balkans, East Africa and Central Asia, with the mission to "help people acquire the skills, knowledge, confidence and resources to lead local action and achieve constructive change in their communities.

New Faculty Members

Ms. Farzana Rashid joined the Department of CSE as Lecturer on March 05, 2005. She did her BSc in

Computer Science from University of North Texas, USA.

Mr. Sumon Shahriar also joined the Department of CSE on March 01, 2005. He obtained his BSc in CSE from Dhaka University.

Mr Khondaker Hasibul Kabir joined as Lecturer in the Department of ARC on March 01, 2005. He has done his M Arch in Landscape Design from University of Sheffield, UK.

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