

2005/november

## **BU-AC Meeting**

The 18th BRAC University Academic Council (BU-AC) meeting was held in BU Conference Room on November 30, 2005. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU chaired the meeting.

## **Public Speaking Competition**

BU Debating Club (BUDC) organized a certificate giving ceremony and Public Speaking Competition on November 30, 2005. The competition was judged by lecturers Shuchi Karim, Tanzir Ahmed Chowdhury, Peter Cronin, Naira Khan and coordinated by Abdus Samad Ahemed Muntahi. Amongst 14 participants Rafael Ahmed came out 1st, Hammad Ali 2nd and Shabab Zaman 3rd. At the end of the competition, students who participated in the last debate workshop were also given participation certificates. The event ended with refreshment arranged by the active members of the debating club.

## **American Center Program**

The American Center of the U.S. Embassy Dhaka organized a presentation and performance for BU students by Eddie Stats a well known Disc Jockey better known as DJ Stats from USA on November 30, 2005 at BU cafeteria. Dr. Zainab F. Ali, Director Student Affairs introduced and welcomed the team from the American Center. The presentation titled 'American Youth and Multicultural Society in the U.S.' where he discussed how music acts as an integrating factor in the multicultural environment in the US. About 260 students enjoyed some music as well as the interesting lecture, which was also attended by Mr. John Cebra, Director, Ms. Sabreen S. Rahman, Program Development Advisor, Ms Fahmida Chowdhury, Cultural Affairs Assistant, from the American Center. The program ended with a question answer session where the students enquired about the possibilities of inclusion of Bangla music and other relevant questions. A senior BU student presented a BU crest to Mr. Eddie Stats.

## **Training Workshop**

Mr. M A H Sameni Librarian, Ayesha Abed Library, BU attended a daylong Training Workshop organized by United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) on November 29, 2005 at CIRDAP Auditorium. The title of the training workshop was 'Role of Knowledge Managers to Disseminate UN Resources Through Website'.

## **Angan Lecture 34**

Angan, Department of Architecture (ARC), held its 34th event on the works Architects N.R. Khan and Tanya Karim on November 29, 2005. The architects talked about their architectural inspirations, design thoughts and working processes. Students and teachers of BU and other universities as well as professional architects attended the lecture. The event ended with a lively question and answer session.

## **Embassy of Netherlands Joins Hands with BRAC University for Better Governance and Development**

With the aim to assist BRAC University in its mission to equip leaders and policy makers in different government sectors through its Masters in Governance and Development (MGD) programme, the Netherlands Development Cooperation agreed to provide support over three years for two sets of interlinked governance activities at BRAC University. The US \$150,000 contribution will aid in capacity building of the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS), to tackle policy issues and managerial problems through the MGD and research and publication on related issues. An agreement was signed to this end at BRAC Centre on November 28, 2005 between Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury, Executive Director, BRAC and His

Excellency Mr Kees Beemsterboer, Ambassador of the Netherlands. Masters in Governance and Development Studies is a new initiative by BRAC University under the auspices of BRAC. BRAC's diverse experience in training people under different capacities, involvement in the development work and public sector both at home and abroad has prompted it to pioneer an interdisciplinary but development biased programme. It will be customized to the needs and realities of Bangladesh and constantly crosschecked and fine-tuned in order to satisfy the evolving needs of governance in a global context through innovative and interdisciplinary pedagogy. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Mr Fazle Hasan Abed, Founder Chairperson, BRAC, Mr Faruq Ahmed Choudhury, Adviser, BRAC, Deputy Executive Directors of BRAC Mr. AMR Chowdhury and Mr Manzoor Hasan, Mr S N Kairy, Head of Finance, BRAC, Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice-Chancellor, BRAC University and Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. Ms Tania Zaman, Adviser, Good Governance, the Royal Netherlands Embassy, was also present.

Embassy of Netherlands Joins Hands with BRAC University

## **Monthly Meeting**

The Monthly Meeting of "Student Affair Committee" was held on November 28, 2005. All the members and student representatives attended the meeting. Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Senior Student Affairs Officer chaired the meeting.

## **ENH Presentation**

Department of English and Humanities (ENH) arranged a presentation on 'The State of Women Studies in BRAC University', on November 28, 2005. The presentation was made by Shuchi Karim, Lecturer, ENH, followed by an open discussion regarding the possibility of formulating a 'Gender Cluster' in BU. The session was chaired by Professor Firdous Azim, Chairperson, ENH. The seminar was attended by a number of faculty members from different departments, students and Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU. Dr. Maleka Begum, renowned Women's Rights Activist and Faculty, Women's Studies Department, Dhaka University attended and actively participated in the deliberations. It was decided that a group of students and teachers will do the primary work for creating a 'Gender Cluster' which would work towards making a platform for all gender related activities in BU.

## **Micro Lab Exercise**

First Micro Lab Exercise of the Fall 2005 Semester (RS) was conducted on November 26, 2005. Eighty students of the Savar Campus participated in the exercise. In this unique exercise, the students performed the duties of the TARC officials and the staffs starting from the In-Charge down to cleaners and laundry persons. The exercise created a lot of enthusiasm among the participants.

## **BRAC Project Visit**

Seventy students of RS went on BRAC Project visits. The students were divided in two groups, one group went to Manikganj and the other group went to Sreepur. Each group was further divided into eight sub-groups. Two sub-groups were assigned one subject to look into and later submit a report on the visit and give a presentation. The subjects were BRAC Micro-Credit Program, BRAC Health Program, BRAC Education Program and Legal and Human Rights Program.

## **BUSEF Team Visited Turkey**

A four member BU 'Social Entrepreneurship Forum' (BUSEF) team including three students, Shaira Moula [ENH], Tanveer Rouf [ESS] and Samiur Rahman [ARC], and Bushra T. Chowdhury, lecturer, CSE, visited Turkey to attend a field visit-seminar program from November 18-26, 2005. The visit, which was the first

phase of developing SEF at BU, was funded by the Ashoka Foundation, USA and conducted by 'TOG', a community volunteers foundation working with young people in Turkey to contribute to social responsibilities. BU team visited Istanbul, Bursa, Bolu, Sakarya, Bandirma and Ankara, and learnt about the student run voluntary projects of TOG. In the second phase volunteers from TOG will come to BU to help train and develop the BUSEF.

## **'Seats' at Prangan**

Freshmen II students of the Department of Architecture (ARC), BU organized a three-day exhibition of the "Seats" designed by them as one of their studio projects from November 22-24, 2005 at PRANGAN. The exhibition was later extended till November 27, 2005.

## **CSE Seminar**

Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) organized a seminar on "Ubiquitous Computing: Making Machines Understand the People and Places Around Them" on November 23, 2005. Dr. Tanzeem Choudhury, researcher, Intel Research, Seattle and an affiliate faculty member of the Computer Science and Engineering department at the University of Washington was the keynote speaker. Teachers and students of CSE as well as other departments attended the seminar.

## **Afternoon of Poetry**

Department of English and Humanities (ENH) organized "An Afternoon of Poetry" in collaboration with Brine Pickles, a creative writers group supported by the British Council on November 20, 2005. Members of Brine Pickle and selected students of BU recited poetries. Professor Kaiser Haq and Professor Firdous Azim, Chairperson, were present and faculty members of ENH as well as other departments also attended in the afternoon of poetry session.

## **EID Reunion**

The BU Eid Reunion was held on November 19, 2005 at BU Cafeteria. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC and about 150 teachers, management staff and the spouses attended the function.

## **Midterm Makeup Exams**

Makeup Midterm Exams of Fall 2005 semester started on November 15, 2005 and ended on November 19, 2005. During the week, classes and other regular activities were held as per schedule.

## **Departmental Briefing Session**

The Departmental Briefing sessions for incoming Spring 2006 undergraduate students were held on November 17, 2005. The newly selected students were briefed at their respective departments.

## **Campus Super's Dinner**

Two CS Dinners were held in November 2005. The first CS Dinner was held on November 16, 2005 in RS, BU campus Savar. Ms. Hua Du, Country Director, Bangladesh Resident Mission of the Asian Development Bank was the Guest of Honour. The second CS Dinner was held on November 30, 2005. Professor Zillur Rahman Khan, Rosebush Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin and Mr. Dilwar Hussain Chowdhury,

Head of Internal Control, City Bank, were the Guests of Honour. The dinners were attended by students of RS based in BU Campus, Savar, Campus Super and a number of faculty members.

## **Angan/BUFC Event**

Department of Architecture (ARC) arranged an Angan/BUFC event on November 16, 2005. A documentary film 'Maya Lin: A world of ideas' was screened during this event. Maya Lin creates places of refuge and contemplation in highly public spaces. Constructed on an intimate human scale, they invite visitors to touch, feel, respond, and reflect. In this program, the acclaimed sculptor and architect talks with Bill Moyers about a life and a career that has been shaped by her Asian-American heritage and a profound respect and love for the natural environment.

## **RS Cultural Evening**

The students of RS organized a colourful cultural program on November 15, 2005 at BU Campus Savar. CS, teachers and students of RS attended the Program.

## **Seminar on "Higher Education in the USA"**

The American Center, Dhaka, organized a seminar on "Higher Education in the USA" for BU students on November 14, 2005 at BU. Dr. Zainab F Ali, Director, Student Affairs introduced the four-member team to the students. Ms. Arefin Jahan, Student Adviser, American Center, in her presentation informed the students about the facilities that they provide from the center for getting the students prepared for their higher studies in USA. Mr. Adam Z. Loutfi, Vice Consul, American Embassy, Dhaka, informed the students about the visa procedures and the formalities that they require from their side. Ms. Linda T Das, Student Advising Outreach Coordinator, briefed the students on the library facilities of the center. The interactive and informative question answer session was attended by a large number of students. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU was present at the seminar.

## **November Update for School of Public Health (SPH)**

During November 7-17, 2005 the students attended the 'Maternal and Child Nutrition' course, instructed by Lotta Ekstrom, Uppsala University and Tahmeed Ahmed, ICDDR, B. The first part of the course was held in Matlab and the second part of it at ICDDR, B. In addition to our MPH students, 15 students from Uppsala University (have an MOU with the School of Public Health) attended the course as well. From November 20-24, 2005 the MPH students completed the 'Aging and Health' course, co-taught by Zarina Kabir and Ake Wahlin, from Karolinska Institute and Syed Masud Ahmed, BRAC. The final course in the second semester 'Human Resources for Health' held from November 26-28, 2005 was taught by Dr. Demissie Habte (International Director), School of Public Health. To prepare for the Independent study, on November 2 all of the students submitted research proposals and provided short presentations on their proposal/plans and methodology to the Core faculty, School of Public Health and some key staff from ICDDR, B. The agenda was to formally review and finalise existing proposals and provide critical feedback to each student before they embark on fieldwork. This process of discussing, preparing and reviewing research proposals began in early second semester (July), where students were encouraged to start thinking about possible dissertation topics for their end of year research study. Currently, students remain busy preparing for their research projects. Each student has been linked up to a key technical supervisor (within and outside the University) and will continue to work closely with Core faculty at the School, while working on their research project.

## **EL-PRO Faculty in TEFL International Conference**

Ms. Tasnuva Arafeen, Lecturer, English Language Program (EL-PRO), BU presented a paper at the 3rd Asia TEFL International Conference held in Beijing, China from November 4-6, 2005. Her presentation was on

"Insight into Students' problems --- A study of the English Foundation Course at The Tertiary level in Bangladesh".

## **RS Inter-Dorm Competitions**

Inter-dorm Competitions for the Residential Semester Fall 2005 started with Football Competition between Chayaneer and Dhanshiri, the two male dorms. The competitions were very keenly contested. The winners of various competitions so far are: Football: Chayaneer, Cricket: Dhanshiri, Volletball: Chayaneer, Badminton Female (Doubles): Maloncho, Carom Female: Malancho.

## **New Appointment**

Dr. Wasiqur Rahman Khan Joined as Assistant Professor in ESS Department on November 02, 2005. After completing post graduation in Economics from Dhaka University, he did Ph.D in Economics from Indiana University, USA.

Copyright © BRAC University, All rights reserved.