

2003/june

Public Relations & Liaison Officer joins BU

"Mr.Obaidullah Al-Zakir joined BU as fulltime Public Relations & Liaison Officer on June 01, 2003. He joined BRAC Head Office in 1991 and worked as a Senior Communications Officer in Public Affairs & Communications Department. He did his BA and MA in English from Dhaka University in 1985/1986 . He obtained a Diploma in Public Relations & Marketing from YMCA, New Delhi, India in June, 2003.

BU Signs MOU with AIT

BU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok on June 27, 2003. The co-operation program between Department of Management and Business (MGB) of BU and School of Management (SOM) of AIT aims to foster advancement in teaching and research of management, to enhance the international reputations of both institutions through academic programs, exchange of academic information and materials, organization of joint management development and joint research programs, and other academic exchanges. This MOU constitutes a broad intent and understanding between MGB and SOM to further the cause of quality business education in the region, as partners committed to the above-mentioned objectives. The MOU between the two institutions focuses, among others, on setting up a collaborative program for MBA students and faculty members of BU to continue their Masters/Ph.D. program at SOM/AIT.

Seminar at BU

Mr. Sultan M. Chowdhury, CPA, Division of Insurance and Research, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (US Federal Government Agency) conducted a seminar on "IT Industry and its possibilities in Bangladesh" on June 26, 2003. Dr. Sayeed Salam, Department of CSE, BU introduced Mr. Sultan M. Chowdhury and made the opening statement. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU, all the Chairpersons and Senior Faculty Members of BU attended the program.

Achievement of BU Student

Mr. Arif Abdullah Proshno, a sophomore student in CSE department at BU worked on a project in his C++ course. His submitted research paper has been accepted for publication at ICITA, an IEEE conference to be held in China. The paper is titled " A Generic Spell Check Engine for South Asian Languages". The paper went under the theme of NLP (Natural Language Processing). This is the first time in Bangladesh that a second year undergraduate student research paper has been accepted for an IEEE conference. The conference will be held on January 8-11, 2004 in Harbin, China. The Paper is expected to be published in the Conference Proceedings. The Paper was written under the supervision of Mr. Ashfaqur Rahman, Lecturer, Department of CSE, BU.

Audit Report

Messers Rahaman & Rahman Haq submitted the final Audit report of BU for the Financial year 2001 on June 25, 2003.

Lecture on "Bangladesh in a Globalized World"

A public Lecture titled "Bangladesh in a Globalized World" was given by Professor Nurul Islam, the first Deputy Chairman of Bangladesh Planning Commission on June 24, 2003. The lecture took place at the Planning Development Academy, Dhaka. Bangladesh Economic Association and BU jointly organized the lecture. The program was presided over by Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, President, Bangladesh

Economic Association. Teachers of BU and Economists from different institutions and organizations located in Dhaka attended the Lecture.

Summer Semester-2003 Begins

The Summer Semester 2003 began with all regular activities on June 22, 2003.

Consolidation Semester Launched

BU has launched the Consolidation Semester at Centre for Development Management (BCDM) in Savar on June 21, 2003. This latest endeavor of the university is a result of the findings and recommendations of a BU workshop titled "BRAC University Initiative for Learning & Development" (BUILD) where it was revealed that prospective employers expect good communication and English skills together with adequate computer literacy from the Graduates. The nine week long residential semester has been designed to improve English communication and the overall personality of students. The program includes two 3 credit courses and additional contents on English and organizational culture, values and ethics. The semester commenced on June 22, 2003 and will continue till August 27, 2003. Students who have earned 60 credits or more are eligible for attending the Consolidation Semester.

Advising and Registration for summer 2003

Advising and the registration of the students for Summer-2003 took place from June 16 till June 21, 2003.

Grade Sheet of Spring Semester

The Grade sheets of Spring Semester 2003 were distributed to the students on June 16, 2003.

Dr. Anwarul Hoque Attends Workshop on WTO

Dr. Anwarul Hoque, a visiting Faculty at BU and a Senior Fulbright Scholar made two keynote presentations on Agriculture in WTO's Doha Development Agenda (posted in www.indianchamber.org/resources/presentations) in seminars on WTO held on June 16, 2003 in Guwahati, Assam organized jointly by the Indian Chamber of Commerce and the American Center/Kolkata, and on June 18, 2003 in Bhubaneswer, Orissa organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce and the European Commission. The audience in both places comprised of people from government institutions, NGOs, Universities, and business community. Some of the participants particularly Dr. Jayanta Madhab, Economic and Financial Advisor to the Chief Minister of Assam wanted to know about BRAC activities. Representatives were also eager to know about BRAC's activities on micro-credit and agribusiness development. Dr. Haque explained these in details and also advised them to contact BRAC for further information.

AC Meeting Held

The 8th Meeting of the Academic Council (AC) of BU was held at BU Conference Room on June 16, 2003. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU and Chairperson of the AC presided over the meeting. Dr. Riaz Khan, Professor Abdur Rab, Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, Professor A.M. Muazzam Husain, Professor Firdous Azim, Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, Dr. Yousuf M Islam, Dr. Fuad Hassan Mallick and Mr. Muhammad Sahool Afzal attended the meeting.

Lecture held

A lecture on "Bangladesh-India Economic Relations" organized by BU, was held in BRAC Center Auditorium on June 15, 2003. Professor Nurul Islam, an eminent economist and first Deputy Chairman of Bangladesh Planning Commission, delivered the lecture which covered various issues related to trade, investment and labour migration. Professor Rehman Sobhan, Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, Dr. Atiur Rahman, Dr. Sajjad Zahir, Dr. Binayak Sen and the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Dhaka took part in the discussion. Professor Muazzam Husain, Chairperson, Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS) delivered the welcome address. He said that more research was needed on these issues for greater benefit of Bangladesh while Prof. S R Osmani gave the introductory speech. In his concluding remark, Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU stated that a joint effort of policymakers, economists, traders, exporters, importers and NGO professionals was needed to conduct further research in this field.

BU- an Authorized CISCO Networking Academy

The Orientation program for the first course students was held on June 14, 2003 at BU Building. To keep pace with the current momentum of the growing job market in connectivity and networking technology, BU has become an authorized CISCO Networking Academy. In addition to its own curriculum, BU is now offering the CISCO Certified Network Associate (CCNA) Program; a program recognized the world over for its quality. The main objective behind the course is to build specialized manpower in the networking sector. "It is our aim to ensure quality training in every phase so that students get proper theoretical and hands-on practical experience that may help them be leaders in relevant fields," said Dr. Sayeed Salam, project head of the CCNA program. The CCNA program is divided into four semesters. It consists of Networking Basics, Routers and Routing Basics, Switching Basics, and Intermediate Routing and WAN Technologies. Among others CISCO Networking Academy Country Co-ordinator Ms. Erika Hoffman-Kiess and Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP Dr. Najmus S. Sadiq were present. Dr. Sadiq gave an insight into the role of UNDP in ICT. As an authorized CISCO training provider, BU has faculties from renowned universities at home & abroad and is committed to provide excellent classroom resources and lab facilities. A guided tour of the University campus was then conducted for the new students. Later the students met the teachers of their respective Departments.

Professor Haresh C. Shah Visits BU

Professor Haresh C. Shah, a distinguished Professor of Engineering, Stanford University, USA, gave a lecture on "Philosophy of Technical Education in the Evolving Environment of Global Competitiveness-A view from Stanford University" on June 13, 2003 at BRAC Centre Inn. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU introduced Professor Haresh C Shah and made the opening statement. Mr. F H Abed, Chairperson, BRAC and the President of BU Governing Board, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Treasurer, BU, Chairpersons of various departments, Muhammad Sahool Afzal, Registrar, BU and Senior Faculty Members of BU attended the program.

Seminar on Evolution of a Shopping Street- Conflict and Compatibility

A. Q. M. Abdullah, Lecturer, Department of Architecture, BU presented a research paper entitled 'Evolution of a Shopping Street - Conflict and Compatibility' at the International Seminar 'Architecture, Overcoming Constraints' organized by Department of Architecture, BUET, from 11-13 June 2003.

Global Affairs Forum visits UNICEF

The Global Affairs Forum (GAF) of BU visited the Dhaka office of UNICEF on June 11, 2003. A group consisting of 15 students was headed by Dr. Anwarul Hoque. Mr. Shafiqul Islam, head of the Arsenic Mitigation Project of the organization, initiated the program at the UNICEF end. The group met with the Chief of Communication of UNICEF in Bangladesh Mr. Naseemur Rehman. He gave a detailed presentation on the works of UNICEF in the country. Later the students were shown around the library. They were also shown video Clips of UNICEF activities. The UNICEF staff expressed great enthusiasm in having the BU students and specially emphasized on establishing their relationships with the University.

Conference on Human Resource for Health

A four-day International Conference on Human Resource for Health and proposed School of Public Health of BU was held at BCDM, Rajendrapur from June 9 to June 11, 2003. Delegates from a number of organizations and institutions from home and abroad participated in the conference. Mr. F H Abed, Chairperson, BRAC and the President of BU Governing Board, chaired the opening session. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Treasurer, BU, attended the workshop and chaired two sessions.

Regional Course on Disaster Management

The Third Regional Training Course on Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction in Cities (EVRC-3) was held in BCDM, Rajendrapur during June 9-18, 2003. The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and BRAC University organized the course, in collaboration with the National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET), World Seismic Safety Initiative (WSSI) and Earthquakes and Mega-cities Initiative (EMI). The Honorable Minister for Disaster Management, Mr. Kamal Ibne Yusuf, inaugurated the course on June 9, 2003, when he acknowledged the importance and need of policy implementation and awareness building on earthquakes, and the value of courses such as EVRC-3. There were 34 participants from Bangladesh and other countries including Belgium, Nepal and Pakistan. A multi-disciplinary group of 14 resource persons were gathered from a number of countries including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Thailand and USA to present talks and share their expert knowledge and experiences relating to earthquakes. The course was interactive, with extensive discussions, exercises and also presentations by participants. There was a scope for experience sharing on a regional level particularly among South Asian countries having similar conditions and backgrounds. Because the course extended over 10 days, with many of the resource persons and participants resident at BCDM, it allowed informal interaction and learning to continue beyond the boundaries of the classroom walls. At the farewell ceremony on June 18, 2003, Professor J R Choudhury, VC of BU, presented certificates to participants. A lively 'Baul' folk music performance gave an enjoyable finale to EVRC-3.

VC Attends IT Workshop

Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU attended the two-day workshop on Open Access organised in Kista, Stockholm 5-6 June 2003 by the IT-University and sponsored by SIDA (Swedish International Development Agency) and the UN ICT Task Force. He made a presentation titled "Recent Initiatives in ICT Development in Bangladesh". He also had a meeting with the President of IT University, Professor Gunnar Landgren and discussed areas of possible cooperation between IT University, Sweden and BU.

Spring, 2003 Semester Ends

The final exam of spring semester 2003 of BU began on June 3 and ended on June 9, 2003.

MBA Course Orientation

The Orientation Program for MBA (4th batch) students was held on June 1, 2003 at 6:00 P.M. Professor Abdur Rab, Chairperson, Department of Management & Business, BU briefed the new students on the Mission, Objectives and Programs of the Department. A visit to the different facilities and buildings of BU followed. Teachers, administrative staff and the MBA students attended the Program.

Professor Roy Joins BU

Professor Gauranga Deb Roy has joined as a Professor of the Department of Mathematics & Natural

Sciences (MNS) on June 1, 2003. He obtained Ph.D. from IIT, Delhi, India in 1985 and MSc from Dhaka University in 1973. His research areas are (I) Mathematical modeling of Oceanic Mesoscale Phenomena (tide and surge); (ii) Air Pollution. He is a member of the Editorial Board of GANIT (Journal of Bangladesh Mathematical Society), Senior Associate of Abdus Salam ICTP, Trieste, Italy and Secretary, International Conference of Applied Mathematics and Mathematical Physics (ICAMMP), which is organized every other year at Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet. Before joining BU he served as Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematics of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet. He also worked as Visiting Research Fellow in Reading University, UK in 1996 under Commonwealth Fellowship Scheme.