

## Architecture Update

### Students and faculty attended the ARCASIA 2008 in Busan, Korea

Adiba Rahman, Mir Nabila Ali and Tarek Mohammad Saidul Islam, students and Rahat M. Niaz, lecturer from the Department of Architecture attended the 13th ARCASIA Conference held in Busan, Korea from 29th October to 1st November. Among the students Adiba Abdur Rahman was selected as one of the official delegates to the ARCASIA Council from Bangladesh. The students attended the ARCASIA Conference which included a student's jamboree consisting of seminars, workshops, competitions, visits and cultural programs.

### Student volunteers visited "kishori club"

Dilshad Samina and Nazia Roushan students of Freshmen-1 from Department of Architecture went to Dhamrai on 12th November to visit a club of SOFEA (Social and Financial Empowerment of Adolescents) a new program scheme formed by the Education Program of BRAC. The club members, mostly school students shared their thoughts with the visitors, and performed a dance and a song for them.

### Study tour at Panam Nagar

Students of ARC101 went to Panam Nagar on November 11. They were required to do free hand sketching as part of their project for design studio. The respective course teachers accompanied them on the trip.



### Seminar on The Aga Khan Award for Architecture

The Department of Architecture along with the Aga Khan Council Bangladesh organized a seminar on 'The Aga Khan Award for Architecture 2007' held in BCFCC, Dhaka on 17th November to present the winning projects of the Award's 2007 cycle to the professional community and architectural students in Bangladesh, and to celebrate the METI School in Rudrapur, Dinajpur which was one of the winners. The seminar program was divided into three thematic sessions that brought together the nine projects that received the 2007 Award. Each session began with video, followed by panel discussions of the projects. An exhibition on the 2007 Aga Khan Awards was on display at the seminar venue.

The seminar began with a welcome address by Mr. Farrokh Derakhshani, Director, Aga Khan Award for Architecture followed by an address by the Special Guest, Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University and an address by the Chief Guest Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, the Honorable Advisor to the Ministry of Commerce and Education. The award certificates were presented to the architects and the client, Dipshikha, the NGO which runs the METI the school.

Dr. Zainab Faruqui Ali, Professor, Department of Architecture was one of the discussants in the first session which was about Designing Local Contemporaneity. Professor Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson, Department of Architecture moderated the second session in which the main theme was Innovation and Intervention in the Public Sphere. The topic of the third session was Boundaries -- Physical, Psychological and Conceptual. The seminar participants included architects and academics from Bangladesh. International participants included Anna Heringer from Austria, Eike Roswag from Germany, Architect Jimmy C.S. Lim from Malaysia, Prof. Modjtaba Sadria from the Aga Khan University, the UK and Architect Romi Khosla from India. The seminar ended with a vote of thanks by architect Mobassher Hossain, President, Institute of Architects Bangladesh, and Mr. Habib Hirji, President, Aga Khan Council. The celebration program at the METI School on 20th November was attended by local and foreign participants of the seminar, architects, architectural students, staff and students of METI School and villagers. Architect A. S. M. Ismail, Chief Architect, Department of Architecture, Govt. of Bangladesh was the chief guest at the session. The AKAA trophy was awarded to the school. The program ended with a cultural show of the students of METI School.

### Lectures and demonstrations on Dance

A demonstration lecture by Shibli Muhammed on Katthak Dance was held on 25th November. This demonstration lecture was to inspire and provide knowledge to students of ARC101 for their final project based on Dance. A demonstration lecture by Tamanna rahman on Monipuri Dance was held on 26th November.

### **Angan Lecture**

Ar. Jimmy Lim from Malaysia was in Bangladesh in November and delivered an ANGAN lecture at the Department of Architecture on the 23rd. He is the Principal of "Jimmy Lim Architect", a leading architectural firm in Malaysia and a winner of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. He presented his architectural projects and also shared his philosophy and experiences with the audience.

### **Prof. Fuad H. Mallick attended the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Kuala Lumpur**

Prof. Fuad H. Mallick, Director of the Post Graduate Programs in Disaster Management, attended the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia held 30 November- 3rd December. He chaired a session Climate Change and Urban Disaster Risk Reduction, presented the project work of the Program in Noakhali and was a panelist in session on Indigenous Knowledge in Disaster Risk Reduction.

## **CfL Update**

### **Seminar on the Liberation War: Voices of Bravery - 1971**

A nation's identity is based on its history and, today's generation knows very little about what happened during the War of Liberation in 1971. With this in mind, the Center for Languages (CfL) organized a Seminar on the Liberation War of Bangladesh on the 17th of November, 2008. True heroic stories of the 9-month struggle were unearthed. The guest speakers were Major Taher Ahmed (Retd) BP, Major General Helal Morshed Khan, Bir Bikram, psc (Retd), Major Qamrul Hasan Bhuiyan (Retd), Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Q. Sajjad A. Zahir Bir Protik and Mr. ASM Shahidullah Khan.



Major General Nurun Nabi (Retd) was also there to present copies of his book about his experiences of the War to the BRAC University Library. The objectives of the Seminar were to create awareness amongst students about the Liberation War, to know more about the country's history, and to motivate them to think of ways that they can contribute to their nation for its betterment at present and in the future. The seminar was organized by Ms. Tahreen Ahmed, Lecturer (CfL) who hopes that this event is the first of many of its kind at the university to enable youngsters to have a better understanding of their roots, and to be proud Bangladeshis.



### **Second CfL Weekend at Savar Campus - Activities and Seminars**

The second CfL Weekend was held on November 22, 2008 for the students residing at Savar Campus. The students continued exploring the different uses of

English language in authentic atmosphere in their selected activities. Apart from the outstanding performances in Debate on the topic of 'Is Media more powerful than the Government?' there were also other activities such as funky necklace making, glass/lampshade/tray painting, photography, sketching, food carving and quiz competition. Moreover, the students were also enthusiastic in rehearsing their performances in the Cultural Programme for Savar Final Fair as well.

### **Workshop on Job Markets and Jobs in Bangladesh at Savar Campus**

'Act locally, think globally' to create this awareness among students, CfL arranged a workshop in the 2nd CfL weekend at BRAC University Savar Campus. The main objective of this workshop was to broaden students' views on the present job market, skills in demand, and consumers and employers expectations from the job seekers. The workshop started with a session conducted by Mr. A K M Fahim Mashroor, the CEO of bdjobs.com. He highlighted the dominating trends in job sectors, especially the major shifts and skills required in the job market. The second speaker was Mr. Scott Kirk Patrick, CEO, Superior Solutions, a

Sandiago based company working in Bangladesh. He discussed the growing business of the Customer Service call centre around the world and its prospect in Bangladesh. Mr. Shah M Azlan, Management Associate, Citibank and Mr Md Jaman, CEO, WiND Marketing Communication two BRAC Alumni, shared their experiences of preparing for a successful career. They also talked about experiences as BRAC University students. The workshop ended with a Q & A session when the current residential students interacted a lot about the present trends in the job market with the facilitators.

### **Chinese Class by Lumin**

In its attempt to embrace all major languages of the world, CfL has presented all BRAC and BRAC University staff with the opportunity to learn Chinese. Classes began on the 17th of November. This is the only time the course has been offered free of charge.

Given that Chinese is a very tonal language, a large portion of the course focuses on sounds, phonetics, vowels and consonants. The course, conducted by Mr. Lu Min, equips the learners with a sense of Chinese history and culture, the history of the language and, the evolution of the Chinese language and calligraphy.

Mr. Lu Min has joined CfL for a year with the intention of working as a Chinese instructor. He is a Volunteer Tutor, who has been sent to Dhaka by the Chinese Government.

## **Career Services Update**

### **Workshop on "Cracking Assessment Center"**

Peoplescape is one of the renowned HR consultancy firm in Bangladesh. They work as a one stop marketing solution company. On Saturday, November 15th, 2008, they have arranged a workshop on "Cracking Assessment Center" jointly with Career Service at Indoor Games Room from 3:00-5:00 pm. The workshop was conducted by Masrur Ali, Recruitment Manager, Mr. Shovan Chakraborty, Field Operation Manager, Sabina Yasmin MTO, Adrita Datt, HR planning and Development manager of Peoplescape. The workshop emphasizes a lot of things and issues related to career, like what is assessment center, what is measured in assessment center, how it works, what assessors look for, what are the tests that are taken in assessment center and how the final decision is taken etc. Payroll Management, Performance Appraisal System, Training & Development, Change Management, Benefits Management has been discussed in these workshops and has also given some tips about what to do and what not to do in assessment center. This workshop was really beneficial for the students and students also enjoyed the workshop.

### **Seminar on "Study Abroad"**

On Saturday, November 20th, 2008, Solace has conducted a seminar on "Study Abroad" jointly with Career Services at AH104 from 3:30-5pm. In this workshop Mr Hasan Taiab Imam has discussed a lot of things and issues related to going abroad, like why people go abroad for study, what is the procedure, how to go, where to go and so on.

Mr. Hasan Taiab Imam discussed details of some of the universities' education information of different countries like Germany, Poland, Australia and London. In the seminar he has covered Frankfurt University of Germany, Skarbek Graduate School of Business Economics Warsaw of Poland, Australia Institute of Commerce and Language Sydney, London East Bank College and scholarship opportunity at those universities.

### **Job Placement Report November 2008**

Our heartiest congratulations to our students who have secured jobs at the following organizations successfully;

Name Organization

Atia Naz Standard Chartered Bank

Gazi Raavi Hafiz Prime Bank Ltd

Zubair Islam Dhaka Tobacco

Samia Islam BRAC Bank Ltd

Showkat Ali Grameenphone

Md. Jillul Hoque KDS Accessories

Md. Golam Mostofa BRAC Bank

Tanvir Hasan Khan Media

Sajid Rahman Gemcom

## ENH Update

### ENG 114 Study Trip

The students of ENG 114: "Introduction to Drama" were taken on a study trip to watch a production of the play *Men Without Shadows* by Jean-Paul Sartre. The play was staged by students of the Department of Natyakala, Dhaka University, at the T.S.C. Auditorium on November 13, 2008. The students were accompanied by the course teacher, Ms. Sohana Manzoor, Senior Lecturer, ENH, and Mr. Nurul Ahad, DCO, ENH.

### ENG 401 Study Trip to The Daily Star

The students of ENG 401: "Editing" were taken on a study trip to The Daily Star office in Karwan Bazar on November 26, 2008. Mr. Madan Shahu, Senior Assistant Editor, The Daily Star, gave them a guided tour of the different sections of the newspaper office. Mr. Zafar Sobhan, Assistant Editor, The Daily Star, spoke to them about the monthly magazine Forum. The students gained an in-depth understanding of how a newsroom functions, how pages are laid out, and how the different sections come together in the overall production of the newspaper. The study trip was organized by the course teacher, Ms. Roohi Huda, Lecturer, ENH.



## ESS Update

### ESS Seminar Series Seminar on 'Uses and Abuses of Economics'

Dr. Sajjad Zohir, Director, Economic Research Group, presented a seminar on 'Uses and Abuses of Economics' on November 06, 2008, at ESS Conference Room. In his discussion Dr. Zohir focused on the history of economic thoughts as well as shared his thought about the subject matter of Economics. He also discussed applications and research methods of Economics.

The question-answer session followed by the lecture, Dr. Zohir gave answers to the questions of the students. The chairperson and the faculty members of the Department of ESS also participated in the seminar.

### Seminar on 'Social Ecological Market Economy'

Dr. Dieter W. Bencke, an Expert in Market Economy presented a seminar on 'Social Market Economy: A Model for Bangladesh' on November 05, 2008 at ESS Conference Room. In his lecture Dr. Bencke focused on the aims, intellectual sources, success conditions, policy examples and current challenges of social market economy. He presented a SEME model for Bangladesh. Students and faculty members of the ESS Department participated in the discussion.

### Thesis Presentation by Master Student

On November 27, 2008, Fahim Subhan Chowdhury, a graduate student of Masters in Applied Economics (MSAE) Program in BRACU presented his thesis titled 'Willingness to Pay for Safe Water in Bangladesh: A Contingent Valuation Study'. In his thesis he carried out an econometric analysis on households' characteristics and variations in their willingness to pay for safe water in Bangladesh.

### Faculty Attended in SAARC Psychiatric Conference

Mahbuba Nazneen Sani, Lecturer of ESS and Counselor has attended the 4th SAARC Psychiatric Federation Conference and 4th International Conference on Psychiatry held on November 1-3 2008 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

On November 4, 2008 Ms. Sani attended the First Annual Conference and a General Meeting of Bangladesh Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health held at National Institute of Mental Health, Dhaka.

Ms. Sani also participated in 'No Your Child Workshop', organized by Art and Living Foundation, Hongkong and Bangladesh held on November 27, 2008, at Eminence International College, Gulshan, Dhaka.

### Faculty Participation in BRAC DEV-PRO

On November 22-23, 2008, Iftekharul Haque and Fahmida Saadia Rahman faculty members of ESS, had



taken classes in the Certificate Course on Development Professionals Program (Dev-Pro), at BRAC-TARC, Gulshan, Dhaka. The training program was organized by the Training Division, BRAC and BRAC University for the mid-level managers of BRAC. Ms. Rahman gave lecture on the basic concepts of Economics and Mr. Haque gave lecture on the Economy of Bangladesh.

### **Museum and CRP Visits by the Students of Bangladesh Studies**

On November 08, 2008, a total of 80 students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) went to visit Liberation War Museum and Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), Savar, as part of their academic activities. Department of ESS organized the visits for the students of Bangladesh Studies. Students were informed about the history and culture of Bangladesh as well as the various activities and programs of CRP for physically disabled people. Coordinator of Bangladesh Studies, faculty members of ESS and house tutors of TARC, Savar accompanied the students.

## **IED Update**



### **Third National ECD Conference 2008: "ECD: Firth Step Last Forever"**

Two-day long Third National ECD Conference on Early Childhood Development was held in Dhaka on 17-18 November at Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA) premises. The ECD Resource Centre of the IED, as the secretariat of Bangladesh ECD Network took the lead in organising the conference. About five hundred Early Childhood Development programme implementers, facilitators, teachers and professionals contributing to the development of young children from all parts of the country and abroad including representatives from governmental, non-governmental, international agencies participated in the conference. The national event was co-sponsored by UNICEF, the Ministry of Women & Children Affairs, Save the Children USA & Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University. The theme of the conference was "ECD: First Step Last Forever". Ms. Rokeya Sultana, Secretary of Women and Children Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was present as the chief guest and Mr. Quazi Akhter Hossain, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education was present as special guest in the Opening Ceremony. Country representatives from Plan Bangladesh, Save the Children USA and UNICEF, Dhaka also gave their speeches in the ceremony. The Opening Ceremony was chaired by Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Chairperson, BEN and Senior Adviser, Institute of Educational Development. The objectives of this conference were to share information and experiences among ECD stakeholders in Bangladesh to increase cooperation among each other, to perceive the present status of ECD in Bangladesh and to find out the ways for further improvement, to share and learn from neighbour country ECD programme experience, to share recent research findings to the participants, to sort out the role of media and advocacy for the betterment of ECD and to seek for commitment from the government. The two-day-long programme included five plenary sessions and nine concurrent sessions. The participants actively engaged by sharing views and raising questions. The sessions were facilitated by the ECD specialists, stakeholders and government representatives. A special exhibition was organized as a part of the conference on the premises of the BSA. The exhibition presented ECD related books, materials, posters, toys etc by twenty organizations. Certificate Awarding Ceremony of first post-graduate course on ECD in Bangladesh was held in second day of the conference. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University awarded the certificates to the candidates who have successfully accomplished the course. Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Chairperson, BEN concluded the conference with closing comments at the end of the conference. He praised the organizers and participants for the success of the conference and expressed the hope that the conference will be a regular annual event of the network. He also urged all to continue their effort in raising public awareness and expanding and improving early childhood development activities. Training on Communication and Motivation With a view to strengthening skills related to child friendliness and as a venture towards promoting child friendly research, IED recently launched a five-day-long in-house capacity building training as an initial part of a year-long training program which would consist of a series of similar trainings. Focusing on "Communication and Motivation", Farida Akter, a developmental psychologist from Inner Force facilitated all of the sessions citing real instances from different case study and relevant contexts. Starting from November 2, 2008 and ending on November 6, 2008, the training had altogether a number of fifteen sessions that encompassed the following topics and areas: motivating a child, effective communicative style, nature of the learners, qualities of good communicator, socio-emotional support, socio-emotional development, motivation, care and support, socialization process, physical vs. mental growth, child's need, memory structure, socio-emotional development, attachment and bondage,

## **Planning Meeting of Education Research Consortium at University of Sussex**

Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Senior Adviser, and Layli Uddin, Research Associate, at IED attended the planning meeting of the Consortium for Research on Educational Access, Transition and Equity (CREATE) at University of Sussex from 9 to 15 November, 2008. Partners in the consortium, funded by DFID, are, besides IED, research institutions in India, Ghana and South Africa as well as University of Sussex and the Institute of Education, University of London. Progress in the five year project which began in 2006 was reviewed in the meeting and future plans were discussed.

## **IED at BAFED-UNESCO Education Symposium**

IED presented two of its research papers at the BAFED-UNESCO Education Symposium on November 30, 2008, Sunday, at IDB Bhaban, Dhaka. Bangladesh Forum for Educational Development (BAFED) and UNESCO have organized seminars, conferences and symposium over the years, it is regarded as an opportunity in which policy-makers, practitioners and researchers to discuss critical educational issues in Bangladesh that emerges from educational research. The theme of the recent BAFED-UNESCO Symposium was Literacy, Adult Education and Status of Teachers. Dr Manzoor Ahmed, Senior Advisor to Institute of Educational Development presented a paper entitled 'Literacy Concept and Context: An Asian Perspective' and Layli Uddin, Research Associate of IED presented a paper on 'Teachers in Primary Education: Meeting the Challenges of Quality with Equity in Primary Education.'" Several members of IED also participated as members of the audience.

## **IGS Update**

The Institute organized a second training workshop on the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) coordinated by Mr. Saiful Bhuiyan, focal point of UNCAC, IGS. The training workshop was conducted over two days, held on the 8th and 9th of November at the BIAM Foundation. The training was attended exclusively by civil servants and the objective of the training was to familiarize the officials with the main features of the UNCAC.

The Institute organized a workshop on the 'Strategic Planning for IGS', facilitated by Dr. Gopa K Thampi, Director, Public Affairs Centre on the 10th of November 2008. The workshop was arranged at the Institute and attended by all the staff at IGS. The objective of the workshop was to chalk out a roadmap to achieve the Institute's mission. The exercise was a continuation of a series that started earlier in the year. The last part of this exercise is due to be completed by December 2008 so that a document can be prepared which clearly outlines the next steps to be taken by IGS.

The Institute also organized a two-day International Workshop on the 11th and 12th of November 2008 for the establishment of. Centre for Social Accountability, South Asia. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Gopa K Thampi, Director, Public Affairs Centre. The objective of the workshop was to identify the Centre's activities for the first year. The participants included practitioners in the field from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and representatives from the Social Accountability Networks in East Asia and Africa.

Mr. Manzoor Hasan, Director IGS visited Kenya from the 16th to the 21st of November 2008. He provided technical assistance to the Kenya Gap Analysis project for the preparation of the UNCAC Compliance and Gap Analysis of Kenya. During these five days Mr. Hasan made presentations sharing the Bangladesh country experience in preparing the report and the next steps after publishing the report. He also provided inputs on the Implementation and Action Plan and the report before it was finalised for publishing.

## **MNS Update**

### **International Congress on Medical Physics, 23 - 26 November, 2008, China**

Mr. Anisur Rahaman, Lecturer of Physics at the Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences attended the Great Wall 2008 International Congress on Medical Physics and the 14th National Annual Meeting of Medical Physics organized by the Chinese Society of Medical Physics and the North American Chinese Medical Physicists Association. The meeting was held at Capital Library Building, Beijing, China from 23 -26 November, 2008. He presented a paper entitled "Carcinoma of cervix in the women of Bangladesh and its dosimetry in the case of remote after- loading brachytherapy."

## Book Review Participation

BEP (BRAC Education Programme) has developed secondary level mathematics textbooks for the mainstream schools. At the final stage of the work, there was a review session of the text materials was held on November 8, 2008 in Savar TARC. A group including mathematicians and school teachers were invited to participate in the exercise. Ms. Hasibun Nahar and Ms. Lopamudra Chakravarty, lecturers of mathematics, Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences attended the review session. There were some issues (contents, sequence, language, religion, gender, ethnic sensitivity, pictorial presentation, examples, exercises etc) which had to be addressed. Several groups were formed to perform the task. Each group had responsibility to check the book of a particular class. After finishing the checking of the books presentations from different groups were made.

## Departmental Seminar

Dr. Amin Hasan Kazi gave a seminar entitled "The Higgs Boson (and the particle masses)" on Thursday, November 06, 2008, at 10.00 am in Room AH 1501. Faculty members of MNS and other departments and some students attended the seminar. In his talk Dr. Kazi also talked about the different fundamental interactions and the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN, Geneva, Switzerland.

## Participation in a Certificate Course at ICGEB, New Delhi, India

Ms. Jebunnesa Chowdhury, a student of MS in Biotechnology Program recently participated in a certificate course on plant biotechnology entitled "Theoretical and Practical Courses on Transgene Expression in Plants" organized by the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi, India. The course was held at the Plant Transformation Laboratory of ICGEB under the supervision of Dr. V. S. Reddy from 3-14 November, 2008. Ms. Chowdhury received hands-on experience of tissue culture, transformation and analysis (e.g. PCR, ELISA) of transgenics and its expression. The course also included theory classes on relevant topics. She presented a paper entitled "Establishment of regeneration protocol in locally grown tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Miller) varieties of Bangladesh" where she presented the research data of her MS thesis which she is carrying out under the supervision of Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor of MNS Dept. BRACU and Professor Zeba I. Seraj, University of Dhaka.

## SPH Update

### MPH Programme

The 4th batch of the MPH Program is about to finish their Independent Field Study. They will submit their dissertation by December 04, 2008. Then they will be preparing for poster presentation. The 4th Graduates' Forum will be held on December 22, 2008 at the Sasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR, B where the graduating students will make presentations of their dissertations and be given their certificates. Also students showing outstanding performance will be given awards.

## EVENTS

### Launching of the Report of the Commission on AIDS in Asia, Redefining AIDS in Asia: Crafting an Effective Response

The Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS: A UNAIDS Collaborating Centre, at the James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University hosted a launching of the Report of the Commission on AIDS in Asia, Redefining AIDS in Asia: Crafting an Effective Response on November 26th 2008 at the Sasakawa Auditorium in ICDDR,B. The Report expands and refines the understanding of Asia's pandemic, and identifies the critical components of a viable and sustainable long-term response that can curb AIDS in Asia. Experts and specialists in the HIV/AIDS field, academics, researches and all others concerned with the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Bangladesh were present at the launch.

### Trauma Workshop

James P Grant School of Public Health organized a two day workshop based on "Working with children who have been exposed to emotional trauma" from November 12 to 13th. It was held at the BRAC Centre Inn. The welcome speech was given by AMR Chowdhury, Deputy Executive Director, BRAC and Dean of James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University and the workshop was facilitated by Deirdre Evans and Crissy George both from IUBAT. Dr. Anwar Islam, Director, Dr. Nasima Selim, Lecturer, and Ms. Suborna Camellia, Researcher from SPH and staff from various programmes and institutes at BRAC took part in that workshop.



## ASG Seminar

Academic Study Group's third in-house seminar was carried out on November 30 at BSPH Conference Room. Enamul Hasib, a research associate at the school presented some of his research findings from his MPH thesis on 'HIV Awareness of Injecting Drug Users of Dhaka' which he will later present at the 2nd SAARC Conference on Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS in Nepal on 15-18 December. The study was on the Injecting Drug Users' current knowledge and awareness about the risk of HIV infection.

## Faculty activities

Dr. Sabina Rashid, Associate Professor, was invited to present on "Social Exclusion and Urban Poverty" at the Closing the Gap in a Generation: Health Equity through Action on the Social Determinants of Health, 6 - 7 November 2008, London, organized by Department of Health, UK with World Health Organization. Mahrukh Mohiuddin, Senior Research Associate/Lecturer at the School attended the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) Forum 2008 in Cape Town from November 13th to 17th and presented at a panel on "Building a Diverse, Inclusive Movement to Break New Ground: The Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR)". In her presentation, she highlighted the School's research and training initiatives on sexuality and rights. Nabilah Khan, Researcher, Lauren Van Enk, Intern from GWU, Kasey Kozara, Intern, and Dr. Sabina Rashid, Associate Professor, at SPH presented a report on HIV/AIDS interventions, Successes and Challenges in Bangladesh to UNAIDS staff at a small seminar on November 19, 2008. This task was undertaken under the umbrella of the Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS: A UNAIDS Collaborating Center coordinated by Dr. Sabina Rashid.

## Student Affairs Update

### Global Affairs Forum



#### Fight Against Corruption: Our Goal

The Global Affairs Forum of BRAC University is a vibrant student association whose main objectives are to involve the youth in discussing about current global and national issues, and through this participation, making a difference in the society.

The hot topic of discussion nowadays is the upcoming elections. Everyone has different opinions about it, but for the first time voters, the election is a subject of uncertainty and doubt. This is because for the first time, this set of youngsters is feeling that they have the power to do something for the country; their voices

and opinions are of value now. Keeping in mind about the dilemma of the first time voters, who fill a large portion of BRAC University, the Global Affairs Forum organized a seminar. The topic of discussion was "Fight Against Corruption: Our Goal"

This event was special due to the gracious participation of two very dignified individuals- Dr. Iftekhar Zaman, the executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), and Lt. Gen. Hasan Mashud Chowdhury (rtd), the chairperson of Anti Corruption Commission (ACC).

The event started with a keynote presentation and speech of the special guests, followed by a fiery question answer session with the students, which was moderated by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, the Pro Vice Chancellor of BRAC University. Judging from the active open discussion, it can be concluded that the student body, most of whom are the first time voters, are very interested about the future of Bangladesh. They want to see a nation of progress and prosperity, where corruption and political instability are intolerable. The only question remains, will the political parties put forward such a candidate whom the youth of today can vote for?



### MONON

MONON was organized two interactive sessions to observe 'World Mental Health Day' 2008, one was for students and other one was for faculty members of BRAC University. The program held on 20th November 2008 by active contribution of the club advisor and the members.



The first session:

The first session was arranged for students of BRAC University where core objectives were: To explore students problems they usually faced in academic life and to ventilate students negative emotions to some extent to improve their mental health status.

Students of BRAC University face some problems in their daily academic life, which hampers their mental health, as well as their study life. To help the students get rid of those problems, MONON has arranged a discussion session to know about their problems related to their course syllabus, make-up classes, faculties, visiting faculties problem, common room problem, library problem and so on.

This session was started at 11 am and was last about 3 hours with nearly 65 students. Some of the students have talked about their problem freely while some students shared their problems in a written form. The students raised their voice for group study room, separate common room for boys and girls, separate rooms for club activities, tuition fees, approaches of faculties and staffs and so on. We started with a promise to keep their (students') name and ID confidential.

The second session:

The second session was a seminar named "Teacher- student relationship: From psychological perspective" for faculty members of the University. This session was started at 3 pm and continued to 5 pm and this session was chaired by honorable Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Prof. Jamilur R. Choudhury and moderated by respected Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed. The prime focus of this seminar was to provide a brief orientation about teacher student relationship to the faculty members as well as ensure better communication between teachers and students. We wanted to emphasize the effective relationship to ensure better learning outcome from students.

To fulfill this goal MONON was invited two esteemed speakers --- Dr. Mehtab Khanam and Dr. Shaheen Islam, Professor, Dept. of Psychology, University of Dhaka. Session was started with the theoretical and knowledgeable presentation of Dr. Shaheen Islam. After providing preliminary orientation she gradually entered into the prime focus of the session. Dr. Shaheen focused on the issues like development of trust in teacher-student relationships, effective classroom management and student learning, some critical factors to students learning and development. Later she concluded her session with some recommendation to the faculties.

After finishing the theoretical presentation, Dr. Mehtab Khanam started her session with a role play. She shared her professional experience regarding teacher student relationship. She also presented a personality theory of Eric Berne according to transactional analysis so that audience can receive an idea about different types of transactions in human relationship. She also mentioned about the appropriate transaction we have to use to maintain a smooth and healthy relationship. Rich knowledge and experience of the speakers made the seminar enjoyable and successful but the participation of faculty members was very poor due to overlapping time allocation of the program.

The honorable VC of the University gave his thankful speech for two esteemed speakers and the audience. He also appreciated the organizer to arrange such an important issue and also mentioned about the poor number of participants.

## **BRAC University National Heritage Forum**

### *Study trip at Tangail-Modhupur*

BRAC University National Heritage Forum organized a one day study tour on Tangail-Modhupur on November 14, 2008. In this tour we have visited some of the famous Jamindar bari situated in Tangail, Dhanbari and Shantosh. At the evening we visited the Modhupur Reserve Forest. Here is a short detail of the one day trip- Visiting the Mohera Jomindar Bari( Shooting Spot of Shrabon Megher Din)

Moharaja Lodge Kachari Lodge  
Unmukto Bedi Bishakha Sagor  
Pocha Pukur Pashra Pukur etc.

Shantosh Jamindar Bari (Currently used as Shantosh Janhobi High School) Grave of Maulana Vashani, Maulana Vashani Museum and Maulana Vashani University. Reserve forest of Modhupur.

### *Online Voting Campaign- Cox's Bazar and Sundarbans*

BUNHF organized day long online voting for Cox's Bazar and Sundarban on 25th November, 2008. Prof.

Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University inaugurated the voting event on behalf of BRAC University Family. Almost 600 votes were collected on the day. Mr. Shafique Alam Mehdi, Chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation was being invited as the Chief Guest. Among the special guests- Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Professor Iftekhar Ghani Chowdhury, Dean of BRAC Business School and Mr. Mahmood Hasan, Registrar of BRAC University were present in the event. Commencing from 11:00 am, the event continued till 5:00 pm.

## **BRACU Computer Club**

### **World AIDS Day**

As the theme of leadership view at World's Aids day, 2008, the mission of the BRAC University is to foster the national development process through the creation of a centre of excellence in higher education that is responsive to society's needs, and is able to develop creative leaders and actively contributes to learning and creation of knowledge. The co-curricular arena of the university is quite vibrant and student-oriented. The clubs and forums provide opportunities for developing leadership, confidence, goal setting and sense of ownership, time management, collaboration and teamwork. UNFPA and BRAC University has been organized a seminar and concert program of World AIDS Day 2008 on 3rd of December from 2:00pm at LGED, 2nd floor Auditorium by collaboration. The mission of students of BRAC University is to "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise." That's why they have focused on leading the nation and promised to send the green signal throughout the world that "WE ARE SAFE" at seminar. Basically, BRAC University has taken a month long activities at November and a day long activities at 3rd December seminar. At November, 2008, BRAC University Cultural club, Drama and Theatre Forum, Computer Club, Film Club and oikos Dhaka have been covered more than 15 private universities and 7 public universities by approaching through their clubs and student organizations (Dhanmondi Zone: United International University, The University of Liberal Arts, The University of Asia Pacific, Eastern University, and Stamford University etc; Gulshan Zone: North South University, IUB, South East University, AIUB, East West University, Premier etc, Ahsanullah University; Public University Zone: Dhaka University, BUET, Dhaka Medical College, Solimullah Medical College, Jahangirnagar University, Home-economics College and other national universities). Huge amount of beautiful banners have been printed to send the message "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise". At seminar they had two special honorable guests. They were Dr. Khandaker Ezazul Haque, HIV officer from UNFPA and Dr. Mozammel Hoque from UNODC. They have kept their valuable speech and they have taken a very good interactive session with audiences and students. Two rehab centers CREA and BARACCA have been presented themselves and focused on whatever they have been dealing with drugs and AIDS. United International University and BRAC University have been presented their proposal which were based on "How to stop AIDS?" Best Proposal Award has been announced and given to BRAC University Film Club Dr. Mozammel Hoque on the seminar. Shondhani Blood Center had been campaigned for a whole day long and given their speech. BRAC University has been organized a very good cultural program and a concert at the end of seminar. About 306 audiences (274 students, 25 Band Performers and 7 people from different organizations) had been presented there till the end of the program. BRAC University Cultural Club performers have sung well and Rajpoth and Anirban, two band teams have leaded the concert. Every year, UNFPA has been giving this kind of opportunity to different organizations and universities. Basically, BRAC University emphasizes on leadership forums. The proposed idea of the World AIDS Day is to build up the Leadership that encourages leaders at all levels to join forces to stop AIDS. Leadership empowers everyone individuals, organisations, government to lead in the response to AIDS.

## **AIIESEC**

### **Round table discussion**

AIIESEC hosted a round table discussion named Voice Your Opinion (VYO) on November 25, 2008. The topic for the discussion is "The first time voters of Bangladesh". The main speakers of this event were Ms. Taleya Rehman, Executive Director of Democracy Watch and Mr. Rubayat Khan, Executive Member of Jagoree.

### **Local Training Program**

AIIESEC organized a training program for their members on November 21, 2008. The training program was updates their skills on certain sectors of the work they do. The training program named "Local Training Program (LTP)". They also worked on certain projects like HIV/AIDS, poverty, education, etc.

## **Student Affairs**



### **Anti drug campaign**

On November 18, 2008 RAB Head Quarter organized an Anti Drug Campaign at Uttara RAB 1. BRAC University was invited to attend the campaign. Student Affairs Office sent a team of four members including a faculty advisor from MONON, two students and student affairs officer to attend the campaign. Higher authorities of different law enforce agencies, people from different level of the society, film artists, singers, faculties and students from other universities were also present there. BRACU faculty advisor from MONON, Mehbuba Sani gave a clear idea about the activities and initiatives taken of BRAC University

against drug in her speech. After the seminar BRACU team joined the destroying program of weed and Fensidil which worth about taka two and a half crore.



### **BRACU Drama and Theatre Forum**

BUDTF arranged a daylong celebration program on November 10, 2008 for the 5 years of their foundation and success sponsored by BRAC Bank Limited.. They put up three skits as stage performances, one of which was a puppet show. Other than that, they involved the students in different activities throughout the whole day like instant performances, sharing memories and such other fun tasks. They also launched their new logo and officially inaugurating their new beginning in the presence of the V.C., Pro- V.C., Registrar and other teachers of BU by cutting a cake. Certificate and crest giving ceremony was held for all the ex and present members of BUDTF.

### **BRACU Film Club**

#### *Bridging Cultures*

The month of November has been a great and delightful month for BRAC University Film Club. At the starting of this semester, this club gained partnership with two international institutes Russian Center for Science and Culture and Goethe Institute.

#### *Russian Center of Science and Culture (RCC)*

A two day long film festival, celebrating the partnership with Russian Center of Science and Culture (RCC) five films based on World War 2 was screened on November 11 and 12, 2008. The screened movies are "They Fought For Their Motherland", "The Cranes Are Flying", "The Star", "Ballad Of A Soldier" and "Torpedo Bombers".

#### *Goethe Institute*

To greet this partnership, BUFC along with Goethe Institute arranged a whole day long film show named "Bridging Culture" in Goethe Institute, Dhanmondi on 20th November. The movies screened on that day were "Amadeus," directed by famous German director Milos Forman and "Lalon" which is a film based on Fakir Lalon Shah. As the name suggests, through this event, BUFC created a bridge between our Bangla culture with that of German by screening two famous movies of each culture. It was always believed that the best way of sharing and understanding different culture is through films.

#### *Zoo Visit*

BUFC went to National Zoo on 14th November with the sole purpose of having a General Body meeting in a very unique and enjoyable environment.

#### *da Circle*

On November 29, 2008 "da Circle" where everyone becomes one, was organized as the concluding ceremony of the semester for the club and also as the appreciation for the new members who worked throughout the semester.

#### *Regular Movie Show*

On November 30, 2008 BUFC screened "Incredible Hulk" as the concluding movie show of this semester.

### **BU Indoor Games Club**

BUIGC participated in the Inter University Table Tennis Tournament, organized by UIU from Nov 23 to Nov 26, 2008. Among NSU, EWU, PAU, UIU and other 11 participating universities BRACU became runner-up. It is the result of enthusiasm and hard work by BUIGC team.

## **BRACU Cultural Club**



### **Annual Cultural Program**

After a way to long break, crossing quiet a few hurdles and odds finally BRAC University Cultural Club (BUCuC) put together the biggest show of the year- The Annual Cultural Program 2008 held on 16 November, 2008 at the National Sports Council Program Auditorium. With intense after university rehearsal sessions and rigorous efforts of all the organizer and volunteers BUCuC was all set to put the show. The program was started by giving away the prizes for the annual cultural competition 2007. The cultural program started with a moving patriotic song sung by Salman Raihan Khan followed by impeccable performances by others. After a series of six songs Angela Haque came on stage with a dance that really changed the monotony. The next performances were a few stunning performances by some of the best performers of BUCuC. The show moved on with the stage set on fire with another ground breaking 8 minute long dance. The audience was glued to their seats all through with the last few compulsive songs that were performed by the most popular singers of the club. Making history was Stawb Peter's solo guitar performance, a first in the BUCuC Annual Cultural Program history. The last two songs were performed by the goodbye bidding president S M Riadul Hoque who once again reminded us how amazing a singer he is, coloring the whole ambience with his mesmerizing voice.

The program ended with all the organizers and performers rushing on stage to pose for the group photos. The event was a great success leaving the club members really content and satisfied with how the entire event shaped up. It is a must to make a special mention of the BUCuC advisors Dr Aparna Islam and Shams Monsur Ghani. We would like to take this opportunity to show our heartfelt gratitude and say a very big thank you from the bottom of our heart. The club hopes to come with more and more events packed with innumerable charismatic performances in the up coming semester.

## **BRACU Electronics and Communication Club**

### *Telecom Career Talk-Technical Workshop and seminar*

BUECC organized a career workshop on November 18, 2008. The workshop was designed to inform the students of the technical aspects of the WCDMA Air Interface in a UMTS/3G network. This workshop includes topics as follows: CDMA Basics, Radio Access Network, UTRAN, Physical Layers and Radio Resource Control. Head of HR, Ranktel was also present in that session.

### *Industrial Trip to BTV - Transmission Section*

On Nov 27, 2008 BUECC organized an industrial visit at BTV-Transmission Section Rampura, Dhaka. This trip was organized to help the students to get a brief idea about the implantation of microwave communication and get the opportunity to have the experience of watching how the modules work for transmitting video and still pictures recorded and live.

## **Rotaract Club of BRAC University**

### *Free Medical Treatment for the poor*

Rotaract Club of BRAC University organized a project which was Free Medical Treatment for the poor people on November 21, 2008. Many people in our society are deprived from the proper medical treatment. They do not have enough money to go the doctor. So, Rotaract Club stood beside those people by arranging a Free Medical Treatment. Rotaract Club started their work with the nearest location and for this we have chosen TNT colony slum. They invited a doctor to participate the campaign. Not only taking the doctors but also they provided some free medicine which was prescribed by the doctor. They provided free treatment around 50 people there.

## **RS Update**

### **CRP and liberation war museum Visit**

The students of RS fall 2008 were divided into two groups to visit CRP and liberation war museum. The first group finished its visit in October. The students of the second group have finished their visit on 8 November. The four buses carrying the students went to CRP at first. The CRP authority showed a documentary film to give the students a primary conception of the history and activities of CRP. After that



students started to see different sections of CRP. In each section there was a person from CRP who was in charge of making the students understand the activities of that section. The students were filled in sympathy after seeing the people who were physically injured in different accidents. The students were charmed to see the different initiatives of CRP to bring them to normal life and the effectiveness of those initiatives. Having finished their lunch in CRP, they went to liberation war museum. At first they saw a documentary on the history of liberation war. Then they went from one room to another of the museum and looked at the reminders of the liberation war. The purpose of the tour was to make the history of liberation war more alive and realistic in the imagination of the students. Having finished the visit to the museum, the students returned to the Savar campus in the afternoon.

### **Social Lab**

On 8 November the second social lab exercise of the present RS took place. For that day students took the responsibility of all regular management staffs; from the campus super down to cleaners and laundry personnel to run the campus for the day. This exercise was aimed at to give the students a real feel to work and people at every walk of life. Total 82 students participated in this exercise.

### **RS Day**

The RS Day of the semester was held on November 11, 2008. Mr. Saidul Huq, Director of The Blind Education and Rehabilitation Development Organization (BERDO), was the Guest of Honor. In a session at Markuli Hall Mantu Shahriar Mehedi, the campus secretary, received the guest of honour by a welcome speech. The guest delivered a speech on how he faced the challenges of life of a visually impaired person and how his organization works to make blind people self-dependent. After the speech of pro-VC Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Nusrat Jahan Khusbu, the semester secretary, concluded the session by thanking the guest and others. Audity Nowshin, a student of ENH, facilitated the session. A dinner party followed the session.

### **Seminars**

A seminar on gender ethics was held on 15 November as part of the course Ethics & Culture (HUM 103). Shipa Hafiza, head of the Human Resource Department of BRAC, was the guest speaker. Another seminar was held on 24 November where Dr. Anisuzzaman, professor of Dhaka University and a course teacher of Ethics & Culture of BRACU, delivered a speech on business ethics. This last seminar was actually a combined class of HUM103 where all students of all six sections were present.

### **Focus Group Discussion(FGD)**

A Focus Group Discussion was held in RS on 17 November 2008. The discussion was facilitated by pro-VC Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed. As representatives of different dorms and departments total 18 students participated in the discussion. The students told which aspects of the three compulsory courses in RS they liked and did not like. They also gave their suggestions to improve these courses. The campus super and some of the faculty members also participated in this FGD.

### **2nd Cfl Weekend**

22 November was the 2nd cfl weekend of RS fall 2008. Like the 1st cfl weekend various activities were conducted during this weekend. Among these activities there were glass painting, lamp shade painting, tray painting, photography, quiz, funky necklace, and cultural program. Besides, a workshop was held on present trends of job market in Bangladesh. A. K. M. Fahim Masroor (CEO, BD Jobs.com Ltd), Scott Krik Patrick (Superior Internet Solution), Md. Jaman (CEO, Wind Marketing Communication) and Shah M Azlan (Management Associates, City Bank) all together presented the workshop.

### **Sports**

The final games of the tournaments of different kinds of games happening for three months - September, October, November - were held in November. In the handball final of girls held on 7 November Surjoroshmi became the champion scoring 14 goals and Surjomukhi the runner-up scoring 12 goals. In the badminton final of girls which took place on 14 November Surjomukhi achieved the championship and Surjalok became runner-up. Nikunjo became the champion and Maloncho runner-up in the boys' cricket final held on the same day. Girls' cricket final where Surjalok became the champion and Surjomukhi the runner-up held on 28 November. In the boys' volleyball final held on the same day Nikunjo became the champion and Maloncho runner-up.

