

## Club Fair Spring 2006

Club Fair, Spring Semester 2006 was held at BU Indoor Games Complex on January 31, 2006. Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU inaugurated the fair. Different clubs, forums and societies of BU set up stalls. The Fair was organized under the supervision of BU Student Affairs Office.

## Research Paper Published

Papers from Department of Management and Business (MGB) were published in Eighth International Conference "Going Global: Changing Strategies of Winning Organizations (2006)" on January 30-31, 2006 at Prestige Institute of Management and Research (PIMR), India Conference Proceedings. The papers have received a great deal of appreciation for its trendy conceptualization, structured application of research methodology and above all comprehensive presentation. Research papers were: 1. Customers Expectations and Perceptions toward Banking Services through SERVQUAL Model- An Evaluation of a Multinational Bank's Services in Bangladesh. 2. The Potentiality of Mobile Marketing for the Socioeconomic Development of Developing Countries: A study over Bangladesh

## BU First Convocation



BRAC University held its first convocation on January 28, 2006 with a total of 115 graduating students under various disciplines. With the Welcome Speech delivered by Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Saleh Uddin Ahmed in the first part of the program, the program continued with speeches by Fazle Hasan Abed, President, Governing Body, BU and Founder and Chairperson, BRAC, M Osman Faruq, Minister, Ministry of Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Nahleen Zahra, Representative from Class of 2006 and Valedictorian, Professor Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BU. Dr AMR Chowdhury read out the speech of Allan Rosenfield, Dean

Mailman, School of Public Health, Columbia University, USA and Convocation Speaker. Professor Dr Iajuddin Ahmed, Chancellor and President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the chief guest of the program addressed the Convocation as a "milestone for a university as it reflects the achievements of the students, teachers and the founders of the university". In the second part of the program degrees were conferred upon the graduates and gold medals awarded to students with Distinction. A video message from Jimmy Carter, former President of the USA was shown, lauding BU for "carrying the legacy of Fazle Abed, another hero of [mine] and BRAC which has demonstrated the importance of grassroots mobilization." He complimented the James P Grant School of Public Health stating, "It's a model that other schools would want to emulate. You not only represent the world, but also provide hope." The graduates comprised students from Departments of Computer Science, and Engineering, Management and Business Administration, Economics and Social Science and James P. Grant School of Public Health. Six students received the Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal and two students, namely Nahleen Zahra and Victoria Nankabirwa received the Chancellor's Gold Medal for excellent academic achievement. A Convocation Dinner was also organized in the Banquet Hall of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre in the evening. Chairperson & members of BU Governing Board and Academic Council, all BU teachers, graduating students and their parents attended the dinner.

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## BRAC Honoured

BRAC received the prestigious CGAP Financial Transparency Award 2005, once again proving to be a shining exception in a pool of 175 applicants from 57 countries. CGAP, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, comprising 31 public and private development agencies working together to expand access to financial

services for the poor in developing countries, was founded by aid agencies and industry leaders to help create permanent financial services for the poor on a large scale. The financial statements of each applicant were and scored by reviewers across Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and North America. BRAC owes this award to the willingness of the policymakers to achieve financial transparency, steps undertaken to ensure a supportive organization, namely: Cultivation of Culture of Honesty, Written Procedures and Guidelines for Transparency, Accounting Manuals, A Strong Internal Control System, Regular Review and Incorporation of modern technology. The Top Award Winners had to obtain the "5-diamond" rating that recognizes the full compliance with international disclosure guidelines.

## **BU Student Newsletter 2005**

BU student newsletter 2005 was inaugurated by Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU on January 24, 2006 at the BU Cafeteria. VC congratulated Sabbir, Ishraq, Ibrar, Hammad, Eshita, Ashiq, Rabeya and Faria, the members of the editorial team and requested the team to bring out a newsletter each semester. Students, teachers and staff of the university attended the event.

## **Academic Council Meeting**

The 20th Academic Council (AC) Meeting was held in BU Conference Room on January 23, 2006. Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU, chaired the AC Meeting.

## **Make-up Final Exam of Fall 2005**

The Make-up Final Exams of Fall 2005 were held between January 24 to 30, 2006.

## **BU Anthem**

Cultural Club completed the recording of the BU Anthem on January 23, 2006. The anthem was a winning entry of BU Anthem student competition by Amir Ibne Sharif. It was composed by Shams M. Ghani, lecturer, BU and directed by music director Badrul Alam Bokul.

## **Spring Semester-2006 Begins**

The Spring Semester 2006 began with all regular activities on January 22, 2006.

## **Residential Semester Spring 2006**

A total of 131 students joined the Residential Semester, Spring 2006 on 21 January. All the students are from the MGB Department. There are 97 male and 34 female students. The Residential Semester will be of 8 weeks duration and will terminate on 16 March 2006.

## **Academic Achievement for CSE Student**

Mr. Mohammad Mahmudul Haque, a graduate from CSE, BU got admission on January 19, 2006 for MSc Mobile Computing and Communications at the University of Greenwich, UK. He is the first student of CSE Department to have sought admission in an MSc program.

## **Talk on Ethical Leadership**

A talk on "How BRAC University can play a leading role in developing Ethical Leadership in Bangladesh" was held on January 18, 2006. Professor J R Choudhury said, "as a teacher at BRAC University, you are also a leader of students and thereby the community at large! We would like you to think about this and solicit your ideas on how BRAC University could play a leading role in developing Ethical Leadership in Bangladesh." Professor Georg Gadow, University of Colorado at Denver was the keynote speaker. Dr Gadow visited BRAC University to help teachers develop the course on Ethics and Culture.

## **BU Cultural Club**

Cultural Club arranged a lively cultural function at the Freshmen Orientation Program at the BU Savar campus on January 16, 2006.

## **Orientation Program Spring 2006**

The Orientation Program for new students (Spring Semester, 2006) was held in BRAC Centre Inn on January 15, 2006. The 2nd day of the program was held at BU Campus, Savar on 16 January 16, 2006. The program was rounded off with a musical soiree organized by the Dramatic Club of BU. Pro-VC Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed and the Chairpersons of the Departments attended the program. This was for the first time that BU students were fully involved in planning and organizing the Orientation Program.

## **Advising and Registration for Spring 2006**

The Advising and the registration of the students for Spring-2006 took place from January 15 to January 19, 2006.

## **MDS Seminar**

Master of Development Studies (MDS) Program organized a seminar on "Gender and Development: Contribution of BRAC" on January 07, 2006 The seminar was organized by the students of Gender and Development, MDS where the team presented the results of fieldwork in Manikganj Aysha-Abed Foundation. The guests included concerned people from BRAC RED and Aysha- Abed Foundation.

## **Grade Sheet of Fall Semester 2005**

The Grade sheets of Fall Semester 2005 were hosted at BU website on January 05, 2006.

## **BUCC won prize in BDPASS 2006**

Bangladesh Professionals Association for SQL Server (BDPASS) 'Launch Event' was held on January 03, 2006 at the Sheraton Foyer Ball Room. Under the leadership of the secretary, Annajiat Alim Rasel (Id:04101017), BUCC attended the event and won a prize. The prizewinner is Tamzid Ferdous Khan (Id:05301009). He was awarded a USA print copy of MS SQL Server book from Microsoft Press. BUCC Executive, Khandaker Wasim Reza Tonmoy (Id:04101021) was also present.

## **Designing Gardens for Physically Challenged People**

Students and teachers from the Department of Architecture designed a garden for the physically challenged people of CRP (Center for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed) in Savar. They worked there as volunteers from January 01-14, 2006 (during the break after Fall Semester) and developed some garden design option through FGD (Focus Group Discussions) with the physically challenged people. CRP has shown interest to

realize this garden where there will be opportunities for BRAC students to participate in the hands-on garden making.

## **ARC Faculty Participated in a Colloquium**

Ms. Nesfun Nahar, Lecturer, Department of Architecture participated in a four day colloquium on "Theories and Practice in Architecture" at Bengal Cafe from January 02-05, 2006. The colloquium was conducted by Kazi Khaleed Ashraf and was jointly organized by the Institute of Architects (IAB) and Shatoto Architecture for green living. It was an introduction to principal architectural theories shaping the architectural and urban landscape today. By introducing important architectural works, the colloquiums presented the range of contemporary architectural production and examine the themes and ideas that condition the architectural production, and the interpretive and critical methods that describe it. The colloquium was a successful one by the participation of 20 architects and 5 students (4 of which were from BRAC University).

## **ENH Study Tour**

Department of English and Humanities (ENH) had taken 17 students for a Study Tour to Santiniketan, India in January 2006. The purpose of the trip was to acquaint the students with the place and its founder Rabindranath Tagore. Professor Firdous Azim, Ms. Sahana Bajpaie and Mr. Rakesh Palash Saha were the tour escorts. The students came to know about the life, philosophy and works of Tagore and they visited prominent places around the Santiniketan Ashram. They also went to the Upasana Griha where a prayer is held every Wednesday. They sang along with various Rabindra Sangeets that were being sung and listened to a speaker reading out from Tagore's writings on Love and Life. In Kolkata they were taken to a play named "PAGE 4" in The Academy. The play was about cultural and literary Mafiaism, which they could relate to. They also visited the academic area of Kolkata, College Street, where the Presidency College, Calcutta University and the famous " Coffee House" are situated.

## **January Update for School of Public Health**

All of the MPH students completed their dissertation in mid January and successfully passed the final core course of the program on January 23, 2006. The School organised a Graduates' Forum on January 27, 2006 at the Sasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR, B to celebrate the impending graduation of the entire first batch of MPH students. The 25 students took this opportunity to share their experiences at the School and also present their research findings to invited guests. Professor Demissie Habte chaired the forum; and Dr. AMR Chowdhury gave the welcome address. The keynote address was given by Dr. Jon Rohde co-chair of International Advisory Board of the School of Public Health and Dr. David Sack, Executive Director, ICDDR, B also spoke on the occasion. Three awards were given: two F.H. Abed Awards for overall performance (social and academic) and one ICDDR,B Award for best dissertation. There was an oral presentation of selected dissertation reports and all students organized poster presentations of their research work, which was shared with the invited guests on the rooftop of the auditorium. Twenty-five MPH students had their Master of Public Health degrees conferred upon them by the Chancellor of the University at the BRAC University 1st Convocation on January 28, 2006. Ms. Victoria Nakabirwa from Uganda received the Chancellors and Vice-Chancellor's gold medals for achieving highest CGPA amongst all the postgraduate students.