

BRACU Visitors

Dr. Istvan Teplan, Senior Vice President, Central European University, Budapest visited BRAC University (BRACU) from February 26-28, 2007. He had a meeting with Professor J R Choudhury, VC and Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BRACU. He visited BRAC projects in Manikganj, Ayesha Abed Foundation and BRAC Training and Resource Centre to observe residential semester of BRACU and training activities of BRAC. He also met the Chairpersons/Program Heads of BRACU and facilitated a session with senior students of BRACU.

An eleven-member team (ten students and one professor) from the Obirin University, Japan visited BRAC and BRACU during February 14 - 28, 2007. They wanted to have a broader understanding about BRAC interventions in achieving its twin objectives of poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor. They visited BRACU Residential Semester Campus at Savar and had meetings with Professor J R Choudhury, VC and Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BRACU.

School Visits

A BRACU team with Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BRACU, Professor Firdous Azim, Chairperson ENH Department, Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Assistant Director, RMO, and Mr. Aminul Islam, Assistant System Administrator visited the Mastermind school on February 28, 2007. Three former students from the Mastermind school studying at BRACU Ms. Indira Majumder, Ms. Nudrat Lohani and Mr. Michel Aziz Ahmed accompanied the BRACU team. Ms. Nina Haque, Vice Principal, Academic council, Mastermind school welcomed the BRACU team. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed in the introduction briefed the students about BRAC and its developmental activities in Bangladesh. A video presentation was shown to the students. Nearly 100 students attended the seminar. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed along with Professor Firdous Azim informed the students about some special features of BRACU and also answered questions regarding credit transfer, residential semester and other related issues. The three former students from the school later on briefed the students about their experiences at BRACU and answered questions regarding BRACU.

Prize-Giving Ceremony

Student Affairs Office organized the prize-giving ceremony on 'BRAC University Symbols - Anthem, Motto and Mascot Competition' held in 2005-06 on February 27, 2007. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BRACU distributed the prizes among the winners. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BRACU, Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Sr. Relation Management Officer, senior faculty members, students and their parents were also present at the event.

Seminars on eLearning

BRACU organized a seminar on "eLearning and its Perspectives in the context of a Developing Country like Bangladesh" on February 22, 2007. Professor Lone Dirckinck-Holmfeld, Professor in ICT, Learning and Design, Aalborg University, Department of Communication was the keynote speaker. He presented a historical overview of eLearning followed by a deeper presentation and discussion of an eLearning approach based on problem- and project based learning. The presentation is framed within a socio cultural approach to learning. BRACU Students, researchers were present. In the second session, seminar on "Opportunities for Masters and PhD in Denmark with a focus on eLearning" was held on February 22, 2007. Professor Lone Dirckinck-Holmfeld gave an overview of Masters and Ph.D programs in Denmark with a focus on eLearning. He presented Master in ICT and Learning (Masters for professionals); Master in Human Centered Informatics (academic master); and the Doctoral School in Human Centered Informatics. Master in ICT and Learning is a half time study organized as web-based learning with 4 seminars per year. This represent a generic and productive model for eLearning, and the model is therefore interesting in itself. The presentation covered the pbl approach, which is an important characteristic of Aalborg University. Faculties

from BRACU, other private/public universities were present.

BUCC Organized BDOI 2007

BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) organized the Bangladesh Olympiad of Informatics (BDOI) 2007 on February 18, 2007. Over fifty students from more than twenty colleges all over the country came to participate in the contest, which was the first of its kind hosted by BRACU. The contest was inaugurated at 8 AM in the morning, and lasted for five hours. Prominent members of Bangladesh Informatics Olympiad Committee like Dr. Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, Mohammad Kaykobad and Dr. Lutfur Rahman were present on the occasion. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BRACU distributed certificates among all participants during the closing ceremony, which was held at 2 PM in the indoor games room of the university. Participants of past International Math Olympiad, International Olympiad of Informatics and ACM ICPC contests were also present on the occasion, making it a collection of some of the greatest talents of the country. The vice-chancellor praised the efforts of the faculty and students in making the event a success, and hoped to see more such endeavors in the future.



BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) organized the Bangladesh Olympiad of Informatics 2007

BIZ BEE's Seminar on "Milestone of Internship"

BRACU Business Club (BIZBEE's) most recent arrangement was the seminar on "Milestone of Internship", which was held on February 15, 2007. The central locus of this seminar was to discuss on internship - the difficulties that our students confront before and during their internships and the possible solutions. Ms. Farzana Chowdhry, Senior Assistant Director of Career Service of BU began the ceremony by delivering her speech. She shed light on developing one's self-esteem, building skills, and also performing well in their academic as well as extracurricular activities to fuel up with self-confidence and uttermost qualities to become the most-wanted in the job market. Two of the ex-students, Mr. Abdullah Al Jubayer (now a Senior Officer-PR and CSR, Rahimafrooz) and Mr Salehuddin Ahmend (intern at Banglalink) were cordially invited to cast light on the subject through their reflections on their experience towards the end of their studentships at BU, current experience in their jobs, and so on. The seminar ended with a lively Q&A session with Ms. Tazeena Hassan Islam, Career Services Executive of BU. Refreshments were served towards the end of the event as an part its successful organization.



BRACU 2nd Convocation

BRAC University held its 2nd convocation on February 8, 2007 with a total of 199 graduating students under various disciplines. The first part of the program started with the welcome speech delivered by Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, the program continued with speeches by Mr. F H Abed, President, Governing Body, BRACU and Founder and Chairperson of BRAC, Professor Gowher Rizvi, Convocation Speaker, Director Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation, John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Raisa Iffat Afsana and Fahim Muhammad Hasan, Representatives of graduating batch of 2007 and Valedictorians,

Professor J R Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BRACU, Professor Dr Iajuddin Ahmed, Chancellor and President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. In the second part of the program degrees were conferred upon the graduates and medals awarded to students with Distinction. The graduates comprised students from Departments of Computer Science, Computer Science and Engineering, BRAC Business School, Economics and Social Science, English and Architecture, James P. Grant School of Public Health, Disaster Management Program, Development Studies Program and Centre of Governance and Development. Nine students received Vice Chancellor's Medals and three students received Chancellor's Gold medal-- Raisa Iffat Afsana and Fahim Muhammad Hasan and Jobair Mohammad Kaiser received the Chancellor's Gold Medal for excellent academic achievements. A Convocation Dinner was also organized in the Banquet Hall of the

Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre in the evening. Chairpersons, members of BU Governing Board and Academic Council, all BRACU teachers, graduating students and their parents attended the dinner.

BRAC University held its 2nd convocation on February 8, 2007

ARCHITECTURE (ARC) Update

ARC Chairperson attends meeting of the survey group on Architecture Education in Islamic Societies Professor Fuad H. Mallick, Chairperson, Department of Architecture attended the second meeting of the survey group on Architectural Education in Islamic Societies in Dubai on February 23-24, 2007. The first meeting was held in Geneva in June 2006. The survey is sponsored by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and is chaired by Professor Peter Rowe, of the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University and Director of the Aga Khan Education Program.

Public Lecture by ARC Lecturer

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Lecturer, Department of Architecture, delivered a lecture on 'Architects (role) in Housing and Development', which was organized by a study group of architects at Dhanmondi, Dhaka on February 20, 2007. The audience was mostly practicing architects, students of architecture, artists and social workers. The lecture was focused on architects' traditional role, other professional in development, alternative role models in housing and development and how the Department of Architecture, BRAC University is trying to balance the contemporary need of development through developing appropriate courses. Later he shared the research outcome of 'Dynamic Vernacular: Spaces in the Homesteads of the Ultra Poor', an ongoing joint research done by the Department of Architecture, BRAC University and Research and Evaluation Division, BRAC. The lecture was followed by a discussion.

Angan: Event 45

Angan organized its 45th event titled "Ecologically Sustainable Design Practice in Contemporary Architecture of Sydney by Architect Tanvir Ahmed, Graduate Student, Sustainable design, University of Sydney on February 25, 2007. Mr. Ahmed discussed the issue of sustainable design practice through some case studies. The lecture gave the students an exposure to the contemporary architectural practices of Sydney and its approach towards sustainability. Teachers and students of the Department of Architecture attended the event.

Exhibition at Savar, TARC

Students of Freshman II organized a weeklong exhibition at Savar Campus on their studio project titled "Drawing with Nature" on February 16-22, 2007.

Faculty attends training on Self-Help Housing

Yasmin Ara, Lecturer, Department of Architecture, participated in an advanced training programme on "Organised Self-help Housing: Planning and Management" in San Jose, Costa Rica during January 22 - February 14 2007. About 25 participants from all over the world joined the program. The Department of Housing Development & Management (HDM), Lund University organized the course in cooperation with Fundacion Promotora de Vivienda (FUPROVI), Costa Rica. The course deals with housing policies, methods for cost effective construction, gender and social aspects of design and assessment of housing and built environment, etc. As part of coursework, Yasmin Ara prepared a manual for adopting the concept of organized self-help housing for the lower income group of Dhaka (focusing on the refugee community residing in the Mohammadpur Geneva Camp) and presented a paper titled "Refugees and IDP: Role of the Humanitarian Agencies". Ms Yasmin Ara was been awarded a fellowship by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) to attend the program.

BRACU-Institute of Educational Development (IED) Update

Seminar on Learning Assessment by Profesor Madhabi Chatterji

Professor Madhabi Chatterji, Associate Professor of Measurement, Evaluation and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University and Co-Director of the Assessment and Evaluation Research Initiative of the Campaign for Educational Equality at Teachers College gave a seminar on assessment of learning in primary

education on February 11, 2007 at BU-IED. She spoke about her experimental work in "Proximal Assessment of Learning Diagnosis" as a tool for better teaching-learning and reducing achievement gap of students. She noted the importance of professional and institutional capacity development and the need for avoiding some of the pitfalls of national assessment in USA and UK as Bangladesh begins to introduce a public examination at the end of the primary stage. Over 35 people from Directorate of Primary Education, Second Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP II) and education NGOs attended the seminar.

Cooperation Agreement Signed with Plan Bangladesh

BU-IED and Plan Bangladesh have renewed their current cooperation agreement up to January 2010 in order to support the work of the Early Childhood Development Resource Centre (ECDRC) at BU-IED. Under the agreement, Plan Bangladesh will provide US\$ 600,000 (Tk. 4 crores) to develop and implement post-graduate courses and short training, undertake research, prepare learning materials, and carry out policy advocacy for promoting early childhood development. BU-IED is collaborating with the Open Society Institute of the Soros Foundation to develop the academic courses in ECD.

Workshop on Community and School Studies

Staff of five prominent education NGOS - BRAC, Concern Worldwide, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, FIVDB, and Plan Bangladesh - and of BU-IED joined in a day-long workshop on February 17, 2007 to plan and design a research project for investigating various dimensions of access and participation in primary and secondary education. The project, under the sponsorship of the international Consortium for Research on Educational Access, Transitions and Equity (CREATE), involving eight institutions from Bangladesh, Ghana, India, South Africa and UK, will track for four years a sample of children from age 4 to 15 years in communities and schools in six "sentinel" sites in the country. The aim of the study is to gain insight into the dynamics of inclusion and exclusion in education and influence policies in this regard. The five education NGOs are partners in the participatory research project. Similar studies are being carried out in India, Ghana and South Africa.

Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) Update

Mr. Steve Micetic, Fulbright scholar, joined CGS as a Researcher on February 03, 2007. Mr. Micetic holds a BS in finance from Azusa Pacific University in Los Angeles, USA. His work contributes to the Centre's State of Governance Report 2007.

CGS held a strategic planning meeting on February 06, 2007 to discuss the ongoing development and long-term plans for the Centre. The discussion was guided by a prospectus prepared by Dr. Ted Thomas who was in attendance at the meeting. In addition to CGS faculty and staff, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Dr. Anwarul Haque and Professor Gowher Rizvi participated in the session.

Mr. Haydory Akbar Ahmed, Research Associate, presented a keynote paper at the workshop organized by Manusher Jonno Foundation on 'Right to Transparent Governance: Bangladesh Perspective' held at CIRDAP auditorium, Dhaka on February 06, 2007.

CGS hosted an alumni meeting and dinner at Rafflesia restaurant in Gulshan, Dhaka on February 07, 2007. Participants and the graduates in the MA program and the faculty were present. Professor Gowher Rizvi attended as a special guest.

MA degrees in Governance and Development were conferred to fifteen students, out of twenty-six, during the BRACU Convocation on February 08, 2007. Professor Dr. Iazuddin Ahmed, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest. Professor J R Choudhury, Vice Chancellor of BRACU was present. Professor Gowher Rizvi, who taught in the MAGD program in 2006, was the Convocation Speaker. MAGD graduate, Ms. Asma Dina Ghani received a Vice Chancellor's medal for her academic achievements.

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Academic Coordinator, made a presentation on research methodology to the participants at the National Defence College, Mirpur, Dhaka on February 15, 2007.

CGS organized a two-week executive education course on 'Sustainable Water Management and Good Governance' for twenty young professionals of the Bangladesh Water Development Board February 17 -

March 01 2007 at BCDM Rajendrapur. The course familiarized the participants with principles of good governance and their importance for management of natural resources through a series of lectures, case studies, participatory exercises and participants' presentations. A field trip to Tongi water project was conducted on February 20, 2007 as part of an experiential learning module. The Certificate Awarding Ceremony and closing dinner were held on March 01 2007 at BRAC Inn. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BRACU chaired the program and HE Mr. Kees Beemstorboer, Ambassador, The Royal Netherlands Embassy, Dhaka was Guest of Honour and distributed the certificates among the participants. Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman, Chief Planning, Bangladesh Water Development Board was also present as a special guest.

Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Director, attended a stakeholders consultative meeting organized by UNDP on the upcoming South Asia Human Development Report. The Report will focus on anti-corruption efforts in the region. The meeting took place on February 22-24, 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Dr. Beata Czajkowska, Dr. David Skully, Dr. Shahnaz Karim and Mr. Sanjan Haque participated in a workshop on case studies development and teaching conducted at BRAC Business School by Professor Richard Cash of Harvard University on February 22, 2007.

CRBLP Update

On February 2007, two monthly tech news magazine, The Monthly Computer Jagat and The C-News, covered activities of Center for Research on Bangla Language Processing (CRBLP) on Bangla language processing. During BDOI 2007, Bangladesh Olympiad in Informatics at BRACU, Dr. Muhammad Jafar Iqbal, Dr. Muhammad Kaykobad and few other academic visited CRBLP to learn about their various activities on Bangla language processing at the Centre.

ENH Update

Study trips

The Department of English and Humanities (ENH) organized two-day long study trips for the students of ENG 115: Introduction to English Prose. On February 03, 2007 the group visited various bookstores around Dhaka city. Tabassum Zaman, Sahana Bajpaie and Asma Anis Khan, Lecturers, ENH accompanied the students. The aim of the trip was to acquaint the students who are mostly freshmen with the variety of books available locally and the right places to look for resources. This was followed by another trip to the Ekushey Boi Mela on February 10, 2007. As students of literature students were acquainted with one of the largest literary and book selling events in the country as well as the spirit of the language movement. As part of the course, the students were given assignments on their visits.

Seminar

The Department of English and Humanities in association with the American Centre arranged a talk by an American author Nell Freudenberger entitled "How I became a writer" on February 26, 2007. Based on her personal experiences, enriched by her travels to different countries, the half-hour talk was followed by a lively question and answer session where Nell dealt with various questions ranging from writing fiction to her experience of being an American living abroad.

ENH Students attended ELT seminar

"Teaching English and its Professional Applications in the Context of Globalization " was the title of the seminar organized by Eastern University on February 13, 2007. Naufela Nafisa Ahmed, Salma Sultana and Tamara Zaman of the Department of English spoke in the seminar on their English learning experience at BRACU. The audience consisted of local and foreign ELT experts and students of various universities of the country.

MNS Update

MS in Biotechnology launched

Maths & natural science (MNS) Department launched the MS program in Biotechnology from the 2007

Spring Semester. Six students from different disciplines like Pharmacy, Botany, Biology, Zoology etc. have been admitted in this program. Meanwhile BRACU signed a MoU with ICDDR'B for academic collaboration in life sciences. BRACU will also be signing a MoU with the BRAC Agricultural Research and Development Centre (BRACARDC) for use of their laboratories and taking up of project work of the MS students under the joint supervision of BRACU faculty and BRACARDC scientists. Dr. Aparna Islam joined the Department as an Assistant Professor in Biotechnology on February 1, 2007.

STAR GAZING Session Organized by BUNSC

BRAC University Natural Sciences Club (BUNSC) organized a STAR GAZING Session at TARC, Savar, on February 12, 2007. A total of 11 persons went to participate in the event from BU main campus. Dr. Dipen Bhattacharya, Associate Research Professor of Astrophysics Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, University of California, Riverside, USA, now a visiting faculty at the MNS Department, conducted the event. Mr. Naimul Islam, an amateur cosmologist and a member of the science club "Anushandhitshu Chokro", assisted him. There was a seminar where Dr. Bhattacharya and Mr. Islam showed and explained pictures of different stars, constellations and galaxies that they photographed. Mr. Islam also shared with the attendees' pictures of the first meteorite recovered in Bangladesh after our independence that fell in Thakurgaon district. Later, the participants were taken to the football ground of BRACU Campus, Savar where they watched the sky using a fourteen-inch telescope. They saw Orion Nebula (M42), Saturn, the double stars MIZAR and ALCOR, and SIRIUS (apparently the brightest star of the night sky). They also saw the constellations of ORION and CASSIOPIEA. The students of Residential Semester, Savar joined in during this session and took turns in observing the night sky. A nice photograph of Saturn was also taken during this time.

James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) Update

Student Selection for Academic year 2007-08

The new batch of MPH students for the academic year 2007-08 has been recruited. Among a total of 28 students, 13 are female. Also, the group comprises 14 Bangladeshis and 14 international students from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Malawi, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Tanzania, Uganda, and the United States. Furthermore, there are 9 medical doctors among these students including a dental surgeon while the rest are from other health related disciplines including nursing and paramedical professions.

Orientation of SPH students 2007-2008

Orientation day for the new incoming batch of MPH students was held at BRACU Campus, Savar on January 22, 2007. The students were shown around the campus, introduced to each other and the core faculty of the MPH program, and an overview of the program was given. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC addressed the students. Later that evening, a dinner was organized by JPGSPH for the new MPH students.

Graduates' Forum for Students 2006-2007 Batch

The School organized a Graduates' Forum on January 27, 2007 at the Sasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR, B to celebrate the graduation of the second 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. The Chairperson and founder of BRAC, Mr. FH Abed was Chief Guest and spoke on this occasion. Professor J R Choudhury, Dr. David Sack and Dr. Demissie Habte chaired the forum. Dr. Shahaduz Zaman gave the welcome address. Dr. David Sack, Executive Director, ICDDR, B also spoke on the occasion. Three awards were given: one F.H. Abed Award for best International student and one Alan Rosenfield award for the best national student overall performance (social and academic) and two ICDDR,B Awards for best dissertation. There was an oral presentation of selected dissertation reports and all students organised poster presentations of their research work, which was shared with 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 BRAC 1st Convocation on February 08, 2007. Ms. Nasima Selim, MPH student from Bangladesh received the Vice-Chancellor's gold medals for achieving highest CGPA amongst all the postgraduate students at School of Public Health, BRAC University.

Course Update

The MPH students successfully completed the first module, 'Introduction to Public Health' a two-week course

from January 23 to February 01, 2007. The course was co-taught by Dr. Alayne Adams (Columbia University), Dr. Richard Cash (Harvard University) and Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dean of the School of Public Health. Dr. Farah Mehjabeen was the teaching assistant for the course. The students began the second core module 'Anthropological Approaches to Public Health and Qualitative Research Methods,' on February 4, 2007, and the course will end on March 1, 2007. The course is co-taught by Sjaak van der Geest (Amsterdam University), and Drs. Shahaduz Zaman and Sabina Faiz Rashid, School of Public Health. Dr. Nasima Selim is the teaching assistant for the course.

Faculty update

Dr Demissie Habte, International Director of SPH left BRAC University on February 13, 2007. His contribution to the development and progress of the School of Public Health has been significant.

Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dean, attended a two-day Symposium on 'Measurement of impact of Safe Motherhood' organized by University of Aberdeen, England on February 22-23, 2007.

Dr. Shahaduz Zaman chaired the module on 'Social, Cultural and Historical Dimensions of Infectious Disease' at Medical Anthropology Department, University of Amsterdam on January 4-23, 2007.

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid was invited to attend a 'Good Practices: Adolescent Interventions,' workshop which was organized by EU/UNFA in Bangkok on February 6-8, 2007.

New Faculty

Kawser Iqbal joined the School of Public Health on February 4, 2007. Dr. Kausar Iqbal is a medical graduate with a Masters degree in Women's Health from the University of Melbourne, Australia. She also has a fellowship in Human Relations Training from Nanzan University, Japan. In addition she also trained as a TOT for Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition in Japan. She has worked for International organizations like JICA and World Population Foundation. Her main experience is in developing programs for Safe Motherhood, Reproductive and Sexual Health for women, men and Adolescents, Life skills for Youth and Community Nutrition. She has a wide experience of developing training programs for health personnel and IEC material. She is involved in the Centre for The Health System Studies.

Ilias Mahmud has joined the School of Public Health as a Research Associate on February 01, 2007. Ilias completed his Bachelor of Science (honors) in Occupational Therapy from Dhaka University and Masters of Public Health from James P Grant School of Public Health of BRAC University. He started as a lecturer and Research Associate for Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP). He has received the Best dissertation award for his MPH dissertation on health seeking behavior of disabled people of Bangladesh. He is currently coordinating the Research Program Consortium formally titled 'Realizing Rights: Improving sexual and reproductive health in poor and vulnerable populations' in Chakoria, Cox's Bazar.

Nasima Selim has joined the School of Public Health as a Research Associate on February 01, 2007. Dr. Nasima completed her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree from Dhaka University in 2000. She had worked as an Assistant Registrar in Pabna Mental Hospital, National Institute of Mental Health Project. She was the senior medical officer, Monon Psychiatric Hospital before joining the MPH program of Brac School of Public Health. Nasima completed her MPH securing the highest GPA and was recruited as one of the junior faculty member of the department. She is currently the teaching assistant for the Qualitative research methods course.

Workshop

Dr. Farhana Sultana attended a workshop on 'Bioethics', at ICDDR, B during February - March 2, 2006, which is being taught by Dr. Richard Cash (Harvard University) and Dr. Amar Jasani, (CEHAT, India). BRAC School of Public Health conducted a one day workshop on 'Sexuality and Rights workshop date to January 16th 2007 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. BRAC Centre - Third floor meeting room. [66, Mohakhali Dhaka]. The idea of the workshop was to have a small informal brainstorming session along with presentation among a group of 15-20 individuals to 1) learn more about this topic, existing research and work/interventions experiences (if any) 2) prioritize what needs to be done - be it further research; interventions or training and 3) create a core group of stakeholders to build from and guide future activities in this area.

Club/Forum Activities

New Club Formed

A new club is formed on February 28, 2007 named BRAC University "Rural Development Club".

Art Exhibition

Art club organize an Art Exhibition in Indoor Games Room on February 27, 2007. It was a great achievement for the Art Club to organize a fabulous exhibition as their first event.

Student Affairs Office

BU Symbol Committee organized the student competition on BRAC University Anthem, Motto and Mascot on 2005. Student Affairs Office arranged a prize giving ceremony in cafeteria on February 27, 2007. Professor J R Choudhury VC, BRACU distributed the prizes among the winners. The winning entry in BU Anthem category was recorded by Cultural Club members and played during our first convocation in January 2006.

Hand Writing Competition

Art club organized a hand writing competition on February 22, 2007 at the cafe during lunch break. The event titled 'Do an arrangement of Bangla Letters to make a pleasing composition, design, etc. '; or 'Write a two line poem on Bangla Bhasha'. The competitors were given 3 minutes to complete their composition. Art Club received a huge response from the students and faculties of BRAC University.

Ekushey Rally

National Heritage Forum arranged a colorful "Ekushey Rally" on February 21, 2007. About 40 students from different clubs and forums participated at 21st February Rally to the Shahid Minnar. The rally to the Shahid Minnar generated a lot of enthusiasm and fervor among the students and was conducted successfully.

Blood Donation Campaign

Social Development Forum organized a "Blood Donation Campaign" on February 14, 2007 in collaboration with Bangladesh Thalassaemia Hospital (BTH).

Indoor Games Week

BRAC University Indoor Games Club completed their "Indoor Games Week" from February 11 to February 15, 2007. They have completed the first round of the game. They will start second round after mid term examination.

Cultural Program

BRAC University Cultural club (BUCuC) performed an excellent cultural program in the 2nd convocation of BRAC University on February 08, 2007 at Convocation Dinner. BUCuC organized magnificent cultural program in the Indoor Games Room on February 18, 2007.

MBA Forum

On 11 February, 2007 MBA Forum arranged a Film Show for the MBA Students in collaboration with BU Film Club. They screened Oscar winning film "The Departed".

Club Fair

BRACU club fair titled "EKUSHEY" was held in the Indoor Games Room on February 01, 2007. The Club Fair is a significant episode in BRACU since it is not only acts as an ice-breaking experience for many freshers, but also helps all students get interested about co-curricular activities. By organizing the Club Fair, Social Development Forum in collaboration with BU Film club attracted students to participate in co-curricular activities. In the Club Fair Spring 2007, BU economics club won the 1st prize; and BU Film Club and Cultural Club won the 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively. Two new clubs were introduced in this Club fair- MIS Forum and Art Club. On February 04, 2007 Film Club screened 2 films as the part of the Club Fair.

BU Film Club

With great zeal, BU Film Club (BUFC) co-organized the Club Fair on February 01, 2007 and won the award of the second best club at the fair. The second day of the fair was the day of BUFC with whole day screening of films on large screen. The films screened were 'Kung Fu Hustle', 'Pink Panther' and 'Tokyo Drift'. The

show received great applause from the students.

On February 11, 2007, BUFC screened the film 'The Departed' in collaboration with the MBA Forum. The film is directed by Martin Scorsese, was released in October 2006 and won the Oscar award in four categories.

BUFC had its monthly general meeting on February 26, 2007. Advisors Professor Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson, ARC Department, Yasmin Ara and Rehnuma Parveen were present in the meeting. A huge number of new students attended the meeting to get introduced to the BUFC family.

Residential Semester (RS) Update

Museum Visits

Around 100 Residential Semester students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) and Bangladesh: History, Culture and Society (SOC102) visited Bangladesh National Museum and Muktijoddho Jadughar (Liberation War Museum) on February 10, 2007. Students visited different galleries of the museums and took part in a quiz competition organized by Liberation War Museum. Four students were awarded prizes. The visit was organized by the Department of Economics and Social Science (ESS), which offers the Bangladesh Studies course for all Residential Semester students to acquaint students to the history, society, culture, traditions, archaeology, and art of Bangladesh. Course Instructors of Bangladesh Studies accompanied the students during the visit.

RS Dinner

The first RS Dinner of the Semester was held on February 14, 2007. Professor Kazi F. Jalal, Harvard Extension School was the Guest of Honour. He advised the students to be competent in their own fields, be self- confident and have faith in destiny to achieve success in life. His speech generated a lot of enthusiasm among the students.

Wall Articles

The first issue of Wall Articles was hung on February 06, 2007.

El-Pro Activities

El-Pro organized various co-curricular activities. These included classes on pottery, fruits and vegetable carving, candle making, cooking and debate. February 16-17, 2007 were used, as El-Pro Weekend, during the two days, in addition to the normal activities, there was a special class on kite making. Later students flew those kites. In addition, there was a musical session one evening and a film show the following afternoon. The students took active part in all El-Pro activities. These had generated much enthusiasm among the students.

Social-Lab Exercises

The first phase of Social-Lab of the Residential Semester was conducted on February 24, 2007. In the first phase 54 students took part in this unique exercise. The students performed the duties of the TARC officials and staff starting from the In-Charge down to cleaners and laundry persons. The exercise created a lot of enthusiasm among the students and the exercise was conducted successfully.

BRAC Project Visits

To gain hands-on experience of development activities in rural areas, a team of 50 students and teachers of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) visited different BRAC development programmes in Manikganj and Gazipur on Saturday February 24, 2007. Students enthusiastically observed BRAC's health, education, micro-finance and social development programmes.

Ekushey February

In line with the spirit of Amar Ekushey, Bangladesh Studies program observed Shaheed Day and International Mother Language Day at TARC, Savar. Students, teachers and staff of BRACU, holding a lighted candle, took part in Probhat Ferry (Morning Procession) at 12.01 am and placed floral wreaths at the Shaheed Minar on February 21, 2007. The students of Architecture have recently built the Minar on the campus. A cultural Programme was also organized in the evening to mark the Day. Students rendered songs and recited poems on Ekushey. Earlier, Jibon Theke Neya, a movie written and directed by Zahir

Raihan, was screened

Sports Activities

The inter dorm sports competition got underway with Cricket competition on February 21, 2007. Chayneer Dorm was the winner.

Girls Cricket Competition

For the first time the girls played cricket at the RS on February 21, 2007. Girls of both Dorms played a match against each other. Malancho won the match and Tamanna Nazneen Rahman was adjudged the player of the match. The girls had practiced for a day. It generated lots of enthusiasm among the girls.

Football Club's Practice Session

The weekly practice session of BRAC University Football Club for the Spring-2007 semester has formally started from February 10, 2007 at BRACU Campus, Savar. 18 Members joined the session including Club's President, Secretary and other executive and general members. The session was closed after a Tea Party.

Copyright © BRAC University, All rights reserved.