

2007/march

Admission Test-1, Summer 2007

Admission Test-1 for the Summer Semester 2007, for admission to the undergraduate programs of the Departments of ARC, BBS, CSE, ESS, ENH, MNS and Law, were held on March 30, 2007.

EL-Pro Seminar

The English Language Program (EL-Pro) at BRACU sponsored a daylong workshop on Integrating Academic Writing and Critical Thinking in a Learner Centered Environment on March 14, 2007, facilitated by Ms. Beth Trudell, an English Language Fellow through the United States Department of State and Georgetown University, USA. This workshop was the first in a series offered by EL - Pro.

Midterm Exams, Spring 2007

Midterm Exams of Spring 2007 started on March 4, 2007 and finished on March 8, 2007. During the week, classes and other regular activities were held as per schedule.

BRACU introduced "Fundamentals of Wireless LAN" under the CISCO Networking Academy

BRACU has always played a leading role in the IT sector. Launching of CCNA (Cisco certified network) program in 2003 was one of the stepping-stones. Over these three years, BRACU has produced over 200 CCNA graduates all of whom are now well placed in various renowned organizations all over the country. Now that Bangladesh is experiencing a 200% growth in the telecommunication sector, the Department of Computer Science is now ready to launch a new curriculum-- "Fundamentals of Wireless LAN" under the CISCO Networking Academy. Senior Lecturer Sadia Hamid Kazi and Lecturer Bushra Tawfiq Chowdhury were sent to University of Indonesia in Jakarta Indonesia from February 26 till March 03, 2007 to undergo instructor training. Instructors from Malaysia, India, and Hong Kong were also present. Fundamentals of Wireless LANs are an introduction to Wireless LANs, focusing on the design, planning, implementation, operation and troubleshooting of Wireless LANs and bridging. It will cover a comprehensive overview of technologies, security and design best practices with particular emphasis on hands on skills. The 3 month long course is scheduled to start at the beginning of May.

School/College Visits

Maple Leaf School

As a part of the BRACU's marketing program a team with Professor Fuad H Mallick Chairperson, ARC, Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Asst Director RMO, Mr. Aminul Islam Asst System Administrator visited the Maple Leaf School on March 7, 2007. Two former students from the Maple leaf school Ms. Manizeh Sahreen Sayeed and Ms Nafisa Ara were also in the BRACU team. Mr. Abdur Raqib, Senior Science Instructor of the school welcomed the BRACU team. Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman introduced the team members to the students. A video presentation on BRACU was shown to the students. Professor Fuad H Mallick spoke about different special features of BRACU and also took questions from the students. At the end of the session Ms. Manizeh and Ms. Nafisa jointly briefed the students about their experiences at BRACU.

Holy Cross College

BRACU was invited to conduct a seminar on 'BRAC and BRACU' for the students of Holy Cross College on Sunday, March 11, 2007 at the Holy Cross college premises. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pr-VC, BRACU, Ms. Sarwat Abed, Director, EL-pro, Ms. Bushra Tawfique Chowdhury, lecturer, CSE, Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Assistant Director, RMO, Ms. Marzana Zaman, student, Ms. Eushra Nashmin student, Ms. Anika Sania, student were in the BRACU team. Sister Merian Tresa, Principal, and, Ms. Rina Das, Vice Principal,

Holy Cross College welcomed the BRACU team members and introduced them to the students. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed in his speech spoke about the role of BRAC and its developmental work in Bangladesh since its inception. Ms. Aded being a former student of Holy Cross College briefed the students about her experiences in the college and also spoke about BRACU with its special features, which are aimed to create a complete person in the society.

Green Herald School

A BRACU team with Dr. Mumit Khan, Associate Professor, CSE Department, Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Asst Director, RMO and Mr. Ali Al Asadullah Md Shafi, Asst System Administrator visited Green Herald School on Thursday, March 15, 2007. Mr. Murtaza Motiwala and Mohammad Arifuzzaman two former students of the school were also in the BRACU team. Sister Asha V. Rndm, Principal Green Herald School welcomed the BRACU team members and introduced them to the students. Dr. Mumit Khan in the introduction briefed the students about BRAC and BRACU. He also mentioned about the present job placement status of BRACU graduates in different renowned organizations both at home and abroad.

Notre Dame College

A BRACU team with Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BRCAU, Professor Fuad Hassan Mallick, Chairperson, ARC, Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Asst Director, RMO and Mr. Aminul Islam, Asst. System Administrator visited the Notre Dame College on Wednesday, March 21, 2007. Father Benjamin D'Costa, Principal Notre Dame College welcomed the team. Mr. Nirmal Chandra Sarker, senior teacher of the college introduced the BRACU team members to the students. Pro-VC and the two former students Mohammad Yusuf Hasan and Salman Raihan in the introduction received huge applause from the students for being Ex -Notre Dameans.

ARCHITECTURE (ARC) Update

Director, School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Chicago visits the Department of Architecture

Professor Dan Wheeler, Interim Director of the School of Architecture of the University of Illinois at Chicago visited the Department of Architecture for a week from March 24-30, 2007. During his visit Professor Wheeler conducted a one day design project for 20 students, gave a talk to the students of the Rural Housing course and delivered a lecture in the Department's lecture series 'Angan'. He had a series of meetings with the faculty members and visited all studios and met with the students on an individual basis to discuss their projects.

MOU between the School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Chicago and The Department of Architecture BRACU signed

Professor Dan Wheeler and Professor Fuad H Mallick signed an MOU between the School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Chicago and The Department of Architecture, BRACU. The MOU provides for students of each institution to attend courses in the other for fees paid at the rate of the student's home institution and earn credits. It also provides for exchange of faculty and resources.

Paper presented at Local Conference

Dr. Zainab Ali and Tariq Mahbub Khan jointly presented a paper titled " Cultural Tourism: A Sustainable Approach to Revitalize Old Dhaka" at "Old but New :: New but Old :Workshop on Urban regeneration / Architectural Heritage Conservation" jointly organized by North South University and The British Council on March 15, 2007. Dr. Fuad H Mallick chaired another session of the workshop on the same day.

Paper presented at International Conference

Dr. Fuad H Mallick and Dr. Zainab F Ali presented a paper titled "Sustainable Architecture in the Tropics: Contemporary Interpretation of Tradition" at the "International Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education" held at the University of Liberal Arts on March 24, 2007.

Faculty as Juror at the Commonwealth Association of Architects International Student Competition

Dr. Zainab F Ali was a juror for the International Student Competition for the design of Sustainable Sports Complex. The completion was organized by the Commonwealth Institute of Architects. There were more than 200 entries to the competition from all over the world.

Faculty attends workshop in Nepal

Hafizul Hasan attended a workshop on Disaster Management at Katmandu University Nepal from March 20-23, 2007. This was part of the DELPHE link program between Northumbria University UK, Katmandu University Nepal and BRACU. The Link is sponsored by the British Council.

Faculties present papers in seminar at BUET

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Yasmin Ara and Imon Chowdhoree, Lecturer of the Department of Architecture participated in the seminar "AED- Architecture for the Economically Disadvantaged" organized by Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET) on March 23- 24, 2007.

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir presented a co-authored paper, "Aspiring Above the Line: Spaces in Rural Homesteads of Bangladesh" on March 23, 2007. The paper is co-authored by Professor Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson, Department of Architecture.

On March 24, 2007, Yasmin Ara presented the paper "Crossing the Line of Temporality: A Refugee Camp in Dhaka" on behalf of herself and co-author A.K.M. Sirajuddin. On the same day Imon Chowdhoree presented a paper titled "Urban Mass Transportation of Chittagong and Potential of Present Rail Tracks Services" which was co-authored by Kanu Kumar Das.

Students Receive Awards in the "Protivaban" Students Design Competition

In the "Protivaban" one day design competition for undergraduate students of architecture held at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center on 10th March, both the first and second prize were awarded to students of architecture from BRACU. The team of Imrul Kayes and Rabeya Rahman won the first prize of Tk.25, 000 for their design of a bus stand and Ehsanul Alam and Rakibul Hasan won the second prize of tk. 15000 for their design of a public toilet in a park. The competition was participated in by 31 groups of two students each from different schools of architecture in the country.

Angan Event 46

Angan organized its 46th event 'Cultural Heritage Conservation: An Introduction' by Dr. Sharif Shams Imon, Assistant Professor, Institute for Tourism Studies, Macao on March 18, 2007. It was basically an introductory lecture on heritage conservation. The Chairperson, teachers, architects and students attended the lecture and participated in the discussion that followed.

Event 47

Angan 'Travel Sketch: Srimongol' by Freshmen I students was held on March 22, 2007. Students shared their experience of their trip to study nature in Lawachara, Srimongol through photographs and musical performance. The Chairperson, teachers and students of the department of architecture attended the event.

Event 48

An Angan lecture titled "MAKING" was presented by Dan Wheeler, principal of Wheeler Kearns Architects Inc. was held on March 28, 2007. Mr. Wheeler who is also the Interim Director of School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA presented their works through a lively slide show. The Chairperson, teachers and students of the department of architecture attended the event and participated in the discussion that followed.

Architecture Research Seminar Seminar 09

The 9th research seminar, titled, "Possibilities of providing housing for the lower income group by the private sector in the context of Dhaka", was held on March 14, 2007 and was presented by Rehnuma Parveen, Lecturer of the Department of Architecture. The presentation focuses on the aim of finding out an in-between solution where both the public and private sectors can work together for the unprivileged group to solve the problem of housing needs of Dhaka City.

Seminar 10

Dr. Bijaya Shrestha presented the 10th research seminar, titled, "Privatization of Public Spaces in Katmandu- Transformation of 'Dharhara-Sundhara' Public Square, on March 25, 2007. Professor Bijaya trained as an architect and urban designer and received his Bachelor of Architecture Degree from IIT, Roorkee, India; Masters of Urban Design (with distinction) from Hong Kong University; and PhD from Tokyo

University, Japan. After completion of his PhD he worked at United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) for about 4 years; and then returned to Nepal to join the Nepal Engineering College for undergraduate program and to engage as Head of Masters program in Science in Urban Design and Conservation at Khwopa Engineering College, Nepal.

Study Trip

From March 08-10,, 2007 Department of Architecture, BRACU, organized a study trip to Lawachara, Srimongol for the students of the Freshmen I. The main objective of the trip was to let the students study nature. Students observed the nature from a close proximity and did some sketches and presentation. Three teachers accompanied 19 students on this three-day trip close to nature. From March 15-18, 2007 Department organized a study trip to Moheshkhali for the students of PPDM along with undergraduate students from the course "ARC 393: Building for Disaster". The objective was to study cyclone shelter and natural risk assessment in the disaster prone areas of Bay of Bengal. Course tutor accompanied 30 students.

BRACU-Institute of Educational Development (IED) Update

BU-IED collaborates with OSI on new academic programme

A weeklong workshop and consultations were organized at BU-IED for developing the content and course units for a professional development course at Master's level for planners, managers and specialists in early childhood development. The participants were from BU-IED, the Open Society Institute of the Soros Foundation in London, School of Public Health at Columbia University and several institutions and organizations from Bangladesh. BU-IED has entered into a partnership with the Open Society Institute for developing and implementing the academic programme. After further work on course design and with the approval of BU Academic Council and that of UGC, the course is expected to be offered by the end of 2007.

BU-IED launches research report on access to education in Bangladesh

A study conducted by BU-IED was launched on March 06, 2007 at BRAC Center Auditorium. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, VC, BRCAU presided. The study titled "Access to Education in Bangladesh: A country Analytic Review of Primary and Secondary Education" was the first output in Bangladesh of the Consortium for Research on Educational Access, Transitions and Equity (CREATE). It is a five year, multi-country research project supported by DFID. BU-IED is the Bangladesh member of the consortium - one of eight institutions from Bangladesh, India, Ghana, South Africa and U.K. Highlights of the report were presented by Dr. Mnazoor Ahmed, coordinator of the research team. Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, former member of the Advisory Council; Ms Rasheda K. Chowdhury, Executive Director of CAMPE; and Ms Elizabeth Carriere, Acting Head of DFID Bangladesh were the principal discussants.

Vice Chancellor and BU-IED Director invited to lecture at National Defence College

It was an all BU day at the National Defence College senior staff course on March 11, 2007. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, VC, BRCAU and BU-IED Director Dr. Manzoor Ahmed comprised the two-member panel that was invited to conduct the session on education in Bangladesh at NDC for its advanced defense study course. The participants were senior defense forces staff as well selected participants from the civil administration and international trainees from ten countries.

Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) Update

Mr. Haydory Akbar Ahmed and Mr. Mohin Khan from CGS attended the faculty development workshop on 'New Ideas in Learning' facilitated by Professor Richard Cash and Ms. Beth Trudell held at BRACU on March 01-02. 2007.

DFID representatives visited the CGS office on March, 08, 2007. Barrister Manzoor Hasan welcomed and briefed them about CGS activity.

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Academic Coordinator, gave a lecture on Governance organised by Youth Development Centre, Savar on March 12, 2007.

Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Director, called upon Barrister Fida M Kamal, Attorney General, Government of Bangladesh, at his office on March 13, 2007. Mr. Hasan briefed him about the CGS activities and discussed possibilities for training or capacity building that CGS can offer.

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Academic Coordinator, attended the kick-off seminar on "Enhancing Capacity of Public Service Training in Bangladesh" project jointly organised by JICA and BPATC on March 14, 2007 held at ITC mini-auditorium at BPATC, Savar.

On March 18, 2007 Barrister Manzoor co-moderated video conference on Anti Terrorism Global Conference along with Barrister Tania Amir.

Barrister Manzoor Hasan called on the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Dhaka at their office on March 19, 2007. Mr. Mohin Khan, Programme Development Officer, was also present.

Barrister Manzoor Hasan accompanied Professor Salahuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU when both called on the Australian Deputy High Commissioner on March 20, 2007. Mr. Hasan briefed the Deputy High Commissioner about the Centre's activities.

Mr. Haydory Akbar Ahmed, Research Associate, represented CGS in a stakeholders meeting with the UNESCAP-ADB ICT mission held at UNDP office on March 20, 2007.

Representatives from the Institute of Parliamentary Studies meet Barrister Manzoor Hasan on March 21, 2007 at CGS Office.

Dr. Rizwan Khair, Academic Coordinator, attended the seminar on "Bangladesh Public Service Commission: Shomoshsha-o-Uttoron" organised by Transparency International Bangladesh on March 22, 2007 held at VIP Lounge, National Press Club, Dhaka.

Barrister Manzoor Hasan attended the launching ceremony of the report titled "Media in Development: Linkages between Socio-economic Development and Diversified Media in Bangladesh" organised by Bangladesh Enterprise Institute on March 22, 2007 at BEI Office, Gulshan 1.

The Honourable Ambassador of Singapore HE Mr. Verghese Mathews along with Mr. Manik Binwani, Consul, Singapore Consulate-Bangladesh visited the CGS office at Niketon on March 25, 2007. Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Director, welcomed him and briefed him about the activities of centre. Dr. Rizwan Khair, Academic Coordinator, was also present.

Mr. Sascha Kemper, Associate, Asia Region, Chemonics-USA meet Barrister Manzoor Hasan. Mr. Hasan briefed the Deputy High Commissioner about the centre's activities.

Barrister Manzoor Hasan called on the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) at their office on March 29, 2007.

Mr. Mohin Khan joined Centre for Governance Studies from March 01, 2007 as Programme Development Officer. He has an MA (Econ.) in Development Economics from University of Manchester. Prior to joining CGS he worked for BRAC as Executive Assistant (Board Affairs).

ENH Update

Poetry Reading by Kaiser Haq

The Department of English and Humanities (ENH) hosted a lively poetry reading by Professor Kaiser Haq on March 19, 2007. Kaiser Haq is the leading English language poet in Bangladesh. He read from his recently published book titled "Published in the Streets of Dhaka: Collected Poems 1966-2006" which brings together four decades of writing. He is a Professor in the English Department at Dhaka University, and a Visiting Professor at the Department of English and Humanities at BU. Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam chaired the session. Many students and teachers of the English Department attended the session and

thoroughly enjoyed the reading.

Theatre Visit

On March 24, 2007, the students of ENG114: Introduction to Drama, accompanied by their course teacher Ms. Rukhsana R. Chowdhury and Mr. Mahmudul Haque (faculty member), went to the "Natto Utshab" at the Experimental Theatre Hall to watch the play, Khancha'r Bhitor Ochin Pakhi. This exposure to actual theatre was very helpful in reinforcing their understanding of drama and its different components. It was a highly enjoyable experience which instilled a new zeal in the students regarding drama.

ESS Update

The Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS) organized the following seminars in March 2007: "Determinants of Workers Remittances in Bangladesh" Shafqat Rana Sayed, Student, Department of Economics and Social Sciences, March 1, 2007, "Introduction to Cardiff's Macro Research Group" Dr. Sheikh Selim, Economics Section, Cardiff Business School, March 1, 2007, "Women, Nation, Izzat: Nationalist Resolution to the Birangana Question" Rubaiyat Hossain, Lecturer, Department of Economics and Social Sciences. March 22, 2007, "Sustainable Development" Kazi F. Jalal, Professor, Environmental Studies, Harvard Extension School, Visiting Professor, Development Studies Program, BRACU. March 29, 2007

Oikos Dhaka in collaboration with BRACU film club screened a short documentary "Dushomoy: a mother's lament" by Yasmine Kabir on March 14 2007. A Mother's lament recounts the tragedy of Shima Choudhury, a young garment factory worker picked up by the police while traveling, gang raped and died under mysterious circumstances at "safe custody" in prison. After the screening a discussion was held between faculties and students about the various women's issues including sexual harassment, violence against women, classes and inequalities, women's rights, and gender and culture in Bangladesh.

MNS Update

13th National Space Science Training Workshop

Alliance Francaise, Dhaka and Bangladesh Astronomical Association jointly organized the 13th National Space Science Training Workshop from January 13 to March 24, 2007. The workshop was inaugurated on January 13, 2007 at Alliance Francaise, Dhaka with Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BRACU as the Chief Guest. Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad, Chairperson of the Mathematics & Natural Sciences (MNS) Department, BRACU gave a lecture in this workshop on Space Science, Satellite Systems and Remote Sensing & Its Applications on Saturday, March 3, 2007.

Seminar

Mr. Md. Anisur Rahaman, Lecturer of Physics at the Department of MNS conducted a seminar entitled "A comparative study of the concentrations of fluorine in different regions of Savar and its effects on the environment" on March 15, 2007. All faculty members of the Department of MNS and some students participated in the seminar.

James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) Update

Course Update

The students successfully completed a course on "Quantitative Research Methods" during the period of March 11-22, 2007. Dr. Diana Romero of Columbia University, USA, taught the course. Dr. Farhana Sultana, Research Associate, SPH, served as Teaching Assistant for the course.

Seminar Series

Dr. Hilary Standing of the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex UK, presented a seminar session titled "Gender and Health Equity - international challenges" on March 22, 2007 at TARC, Savar, MPH Class Room. During the session, she examined the ways in which gender is implicated in the production of inequities in health. These ways include inequities in access to health resources and in utilisation of services. She also talked about some of the conceptual underpinnings of these inequities and some of the

structural issues within health systems, which lead to different gender outcomes.

SPH Faculty teaches at Berlin, Germany

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor, SPH, taught "Gender, Health and Society" to Masters level students at Charite Virchow, Berlin, Germany, from March 1-9, 2007.

SPH Faculty presents paper at National University of Singapore

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor, SPH, was invited to present a paper on "Chinta Rog: Protesting Injustices of the Body" during a conference called "Body in Asia" organized by the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore held on March 15-16, 2007.

School of Law Update

Conference of Thematic Issues of UN Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor (CLEP) - National Consultation Process

A daylong conference on Thematic Issues of CLEP - National Consultation Process was held at the BRAC Centre Auditorium on March 03, 2007. The Conference deliberated on three of the four thematic issues identified by the Commission for alleviation of poverty and their relevance for the legal system of Bangladesh. The Conference was held at the behest of the Commission in collaboration with the School of Law (SOL), BRACU (BU) under the direct supervision of the Chairperson of SOL, Dr Shahdeen Malik.

Mr. F H Abed, Chairperson, BRAC and Commissioner of the CLEP inaugurated the day. It was followed by the opening remarks made by Naresh Singh, the Executive Director of CLEP, New York. The first session had the presentation of the paper on "Legal Mechanism to Empower Informal Business" by Dr. Sharif Bhuiyan, Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. It was followed by a critical comment on the same paper by the Assistant Professor Dr Tureen Afroz of the School of Law. Two students of the SOL of BRACU presented case studies. Eminent lawyer Dr. Kamal Hossain chaired this session.

The second session had the presentation of the paper on "Property Rights of the Poor" by Mr. Afsan Chowdhury, Director of the Advocacy and Human Rights Unit of BRAC, followed by a critical comment by Barrister Sara Hossain. Barrister Amirul Islam, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, chaired this session.

Third session had the presentation of the paper on "From Rule of Law to Legal Empowerment for the Poor in Bangladesh" by Dr. Ferdous Jahan, Associate Professor, Department of Public Administration, Dhaka University. It was followed by the critical comment made by Dr. Abdullah-Al Faruque, Assistant Professor of the Department of Law of Chittagong University. Dr. Shamsul Bari, Chairperson of Research Initiatives of Bangladesh, chaired this session.

Barrister Moinul Hosein, Advisor of the Caretaker Government delivered his speech emphasizing the importance of the Commission's work as the Chief Guest of the Concluding Session of the Conference.

Presentation at BATC

Mr. K Shamsuddin Mahmood, Head of Undergraduate Program, School of Law, was invited by the Bangladesh Airlines Training Centre (BATC) to conduct two working sessions and made presentations before the participants of General Management Course Program on March 11-15, 2007. Mr. Mahmood's topic was on the 'Legal Regime of Service Conditions of Workers in Industrial and Commercial Establishment' and 'Statutory Safety Requirements for Employees'. The principal of the Centre inaugurated the course with a short introduction to the program and emphasized the need of such courses to enhance good governance and total performance in management, specifically after the enactment of the new law, The Bangladesh Labor Code 2006 repealing many of the old laws.

Key Note Paper Presentation

Assistant Professor Dr Tureen Afroz of the School of Law presented a key Note Paper, 'Consumer Protection Law for Bangladesh: A Dire Need of Time' at the roundtable discussion seminar on 'Consumer Rights in Bangladesh: In Need of Effective Law' organized by The Consumers' Trust (TCT) at the Chittagong Press Club Auditorium on March 31, 2007.

South Asia Study by the Minority Rights Group International (MRG)

Assistant Professor Dr Saira Rahman Khan of the School of Law is currently leading a research team for the Bangladesh Chapter of a project entitled, "Pluralism and Diversity in Asia: Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Religious Minorities through Education and Training", which is part of a South Asia Study conducted by the Minority Rights Group International (MRG).

Paper Presentation at the 4th Asian Law Institute (ASLI) Conference on 'Voices from Asia for a Just and Equitable World' at the University of Indonesia

Assistant Professor Dr Tureen Afroz of the School of Law has been invited to present her paper, 'CEDAW and Legal Polygamy in Bangladesh: A Saga of "Unjust Inequity"' at the 4th Asian Law Institute Conference on 'Voices from Asia for a Just and Equitable World' to be held at the University of Indonesia on May, 24-25, 2007.

Centre for Bangla Language Processing (CRBLP) Update

MOU signed with Dhaka University Linguistics Department

CRBLP signed an MOU with the Linguistics Department of the University of Dhaka to build a research partnership with the goal of increasing our national capacity in the field of Computational Linguistics on March 10, 2007. A key component is to develop the underlying linguistic framework that is needed to further the Computational Linguistics work being done at CRBLP; another is to jointly develop Bangla linguistic resources such as lexica, corpora and dictionaries. To kick off the research partnership, CRBLP and DU Linguistics will jointly conduct a series of workshops, starting with topics ranging from Bangla Morphology, Phonology and Acoustic Phonetics to Corpus Analysis. Dr. Mumit Khan, Head of CRBLP and Dr. Feroza Yasmin, Chairperson of DU Linguistics, signed the MOU on behalf of their respective institutions. The BRACU team consisted of Mr. Matin Saad Abdullah and Mr. Firoj Alam, and the DU team included Dr. Jinnat Ali and Mr. Hakim Arif among others.

CRBLP Researchers participated and presented their work in a workshop in Thailand

CRBLP researchers Naushad UzZaman and Md. Zahurul Islam participated in the ADD-2 training in Thailand from March 6-14, 2007. Thai NECTEC and NICT's Asia Research Center sponsored the workshop. Mr. UzZaman and Mr. Islam also presented their work in the workshop.

Club/Forum Activities

Independence Day Celebration

National Heritage Forum arranged a colorful "Independence Day Celebration" in collaboration with BU Film Club on March 26, 2007. About 40 students from different clubs and forums participated at Independence Day to the National Memorial at Savar. The rally to the Shahid Minnar generated a lot of enthusiasm and fervor among the students and was conducted successfully.

BU Computer Club

On Monday March 12, 2007 BU Computer Club introduced "BUCC file server for students". Since then, BUCC file servers have been serving student with the materials from BUCC events and other educational/useful ones. This has been contributing to reduce pressure on University Internet connection to some extent because many students download same things over and over. Furthermore, many students are benefited in their studies/research/thesis as they can get materials collected by BUCC from presenters of invited talks/seminars easily for websites.

6 members from BU Computer Club (BUCC) named Shariful Islam Ferdous Rabbi, Id: 02101073; Muttakunur Rahman Choudhury Souro, Id: 03101017; Sumit Roy, Id: 03101056; Mohibuzzaman Zico, Id: 04101013; Annajiat Alim Rasel, Id: 04101017 and Khandaker Wasim Reza Tonmoy, Id: 04101021 contributed to the first ever open source camp in Bangladesh titled "Rankstel Open Source Camp, Sylhet" concluded on Saturday, 24th March 2007 at the CSE department of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), Sylhet, Bangladesh. A total of 66 students had attended the camp. Professor Dr M Zafar Iqbal inaugurated the camp on Friday, March 23, 2007 and Dr S K Das of SUST distributed certificates

among the participants at the closing session on Saturday, March 24, 2007. The following topics were covered in the camp- Linux and its different distribution, Open Office, LAMP, Wikipedia etc. BUCC volunteers stayed in Sylhet for 2 days and 1 night and assisted in easier explanation of topics on Linux, Viruses, various Open Source Software (OSS) such as FileZilla, Firefox, Putty, VLC Player etc and conducted session on Website development using LAMP/WAMP.

Annajat Alim Rasel (Id: 04101017) on behalf of BU Computer Club volunteered at Bangladesh Open Source Network (BdOSN) stall and at the Seminar, Open Source and Open Content, at SoftExpo2007, BCFCC on March 30 and March 31 2007. The seminar was marked as the biggest seminar so far in the exposition and acclaimed a lot of attention from the audience. Mr Munir Hasan and Mr Fakruzzaman presented two keynote lectures. Mr Hasan covered broadly the aspect and philosophy of Open Source while Mr Zaman gave emphasis on Open Source Business Model. As designated discussant Dr Mumit Khan of BRACU addressed the audience regarding Open Access while Dr Zahidur Rahman mentioned about cryptography limitation of US Based software.

BRACU Rural Development Club

BRACU Rural Development Club, BURDC which visions to work with the sustainable development of rural Bangladesh has conducted a field trip on March 30, 2007 on a pilot project named "Sustainable Rural Development" at Noakhali, Kesharpar. Thirteen members of the BRACU Rural Development Club (BURDC) went on the field trip conducted by faculty member ESS department, Khondokar Ekramul Haque, in presence of advisor Kamrul Hasan and co-advisor, Sakiba Zeba.

The project consisted of a hatchery, bio gas plant, fishery, poultry, solar-power, rice farming and livestock. The members divided into three groups, photography, data collection and interview and evaluation. All the projects were investigated and the members asked questions to the people who currently manage the projects. Broad participation was encouraged and club members mixed with the natives to find out their problems.

BU Film Club Continues Diligent Move

BU Film Club continued its diligent activities all through the month of March 2007. The club celebrated the International Women's Day on March 08 2007 by screening the film "Million Dollar Baby" at the Students' Cafe, BU. Screening another film "Ice Princess" on students' demand further extended the show. BUFC again honored the special day in collaboration with OIKOS by screening renowned director Yasmine kabir's documentary film "Dusshomoy: A Mother's Lament" on 14 March 2007.

On March 25, 2007, BUFC decorated the Students Cafe and the front gate of University Building (UB) with national flag to observe National Independence Day. The film "Ekattorer Jishu" was screened in the evening. The members of BUFC joined BU Heritage Forum on March 26 to visit National Independence Memorial and paid homage to the martyrs of 1971.

BU Film Club organized an informal discussion session (adda) with eminent architect and film director "Enamul Karim Nirjor" on March 27, 2007. Many students from different departments participated in the session. Mr Nirjhor discussed about filmmaking and his aspiration behind it. Few clips from his favorite films were illustrated. He also showed clips from his unreleased film "Aha" and shared experience of making the film. Advisors Professor Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson, ARC and Yasmin Ara, Lecturer, ARC were present in the session.

Two films "The Prestige" and "The Butterfly Effect" were screened at TARC, Savar campus on March 17 and 24 2007. The show took place at Markuli Hall and received good response from the students.

BU Cricket Club

BRACU Cricket Club played a friendly cricket match at the ULAB cricket ground with the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, ULAB on March 24, 2007 and Independent University Bangladesh, IUB on March 31, 2007. The first match was a 40 over match and BU Cricket Club was defeated by ULAB; and the second match was a 30 over match and BU Cricket Club was won the match by 4 wickets.

BU Cultural Club

BU Cultural Club organized a cultural program on Independence Day at Indoor Games Room on March 29,

Residential Semester (RS) Update

RS Dinner

The second RS Dinner of the Semester was held on March 14, 2007. Mr. Osman Morad Chief Executive Officer of the Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh was the Guest of Honour. Mr. Morad told of his personal working experience in different countries around the world. He also told the students how to identify and recognize leadership qualities in themselves and utilize the traits in their career path.

EI-Pro Activities

EI-Pro organized various co-curricular activities. These included classes on pottery, fruits and vegetable carving, candle making, cooking and debate. Two new activities, funky jewelry and musk making were started on March 16-17, 2007 were used as EI-Pro Weekend, during the two days, in addition to the normal activities, there had been fun sports on the Friday afternoon and a musical soiree in the evening. On Saturday there was a daylong professional development workshop and grooming session by HIIT.

Social-Lab Exercises

The second phase of Social-Lab of the Residential Semester was conducted on March 10, 2007. In the second phase 41 students took part in this unique exercise. The students performed the duties of the TARC officials and the staffs starting from the In-Charge down to cleaners and laundry persons. The exercise created a lot of enthusiasm among the students and the exercise was conducted successfully.

BRAC Project Visit

To practically learn about the NGOs' role in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh, a group of around 50 Residential Semester students were taken to visit BRAC projects in Mainkganj and Gazipur. Students enthusiastically visited BRAC's Education, Health, Microfinance, and Human Rights and Legal Education (HRLS) programs

Independence Day

In line with the spirit of long freedom struggle of Bangalees, Bangladesh Studies Program organized many activities on the occasion of Independence Day and National Day at TARC, Savar on March 26, 2007. Rare photos focusing on the Liberation War of Bangladesh were displayed in a Photo Exhibition held in front of Sulla Building on the Day. Muktir Gaan, a movie directed by Tareque Masud and Catherine Masud, focusing on the role of cultural organizations in the Liberation War, was screened for students at 11.am at Markuli. A cultural program was also organised at Murchona in the evening to mark the day. Students made presentations on Liberation War, rendered songs, recited poems and performed dances to mark the Day.

Trip to Archaeological Sites in Bogra and Naogaon

All students of Residential Semester visited major archaeological sites including Paharpur Buddhist Monastery and Museum in Naogaon, and Mahasthangarh in Bogra on March 23, 2007. Course Instructors of Bangladesh Studies, other teachers and staff of BRACU accompanied the students during the visit. Course Instructors Dr. Nurul Huda Abul Monsur and Kamrul Hasan gave on-the-spot briefings on the archaeological sites and explained historical significance to the students. Earlier, BRAC's Songrami Popular Theatre Group of Bogra staged a folk-drama and rendered folk-songs for visitors at Training and Resources Centre (TARC) Conference Room in the evening on 22 March in Bogra.