

2005/september

Inauguration of OIKOS

OIKOS, the International Student Organization for Sustainable Economics And Management has given the permission to open the first local chapter of OIKOS in Dhaka. Now OIKOS has 16 worldwide chapters among them, Stanford University of U.S.A and London School of Economics included. This is the first time BRAC University (BU) got exclusive affiliation to open an international students chapter in Bangladesh. To inaugurate OIKOS activities in BU, the members of OIKOS-BU organised a daylong awareness campaign with official inauguration of OIKOS, Dhaka Chapter at BU on September 29,2005. The cake-cutting ceremony of OIKOS Dhaka chapter was inaugurated by Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU. Faculty members of ESS, Participants from NSU and Executive Director, OIKOS also spoke on the occasion.

Resource Person from BU

Mr. K Shamsuddin Mahmood, Head, Undergraduate Programme, School of Law, BU was invited as a resource person to conduct two consecutive sessions on "Bankers General Regime: An Overview" (Bangladesh Perspective) on September 28, 2005 under the programme "Advance Course on Branch Management". The program was co-sponsored by different Private Banks in Bangladesh along with Mutual Trust Bank in their training institute in Dhaka. Distinguished senior personalities from banking sector in Bangladesh also participated as resource person in the Program.

ARC Faculty Rejoin

Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed rejoined on September 27, 2005 after his one-year study leave from BU. Mr. Iftekhar completed his Master of Urban Design from the University of Hong Kong. He was granted ADB Scholarship in 2004. His thesis title was "Edge defining elements and the vitality of Public Space".

CSE Seminar

The department of CSE organised a seminar on "Global IT Industry Trends" on September 25, 2005. Professor Stanley Sakai, Korea Development Institute, was the key speaker. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU made introductory remarks on Professor Sakai and his works. Dr Sayeed Salam, Chair, CSE, faculty members and students were present.

CS Dinner

The CS Dinner of Residential Semester at BU Campus, Savar took place on September 25, 2005. Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) was present as Guest of Honour.

School Visits

BU team visited Sunny Dale school at Dhanmondi on September 25, 2005. The team comprised of Dr Mumit Khan, Associate professor CSE department, Mr. Parvez Shonchoy, lecturer ESS department, Ms Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Student Affairs Officer, Mr. Moudud Sabbir, Assistant System Administrator. The team was welcomed by Ms Yasmeen Habib, Teacher in charge Sunny dale School. Nearly 30 senior students along with some senior teachers attended the presentation session. Dr. Mumit Khan and the other members of the BU Team briefed the students on BRAC's vast sphere of development activities at national and international levels, on different programs and facilities that are being offered by BRAC University and also on some unique features of BRAC University. Ms. Tazeen Khan, principal, Sunny Dale School thanked BU team for visiting their school and expressed her satisfaction especially on the standard of admission

procedure at BU.

A brief presentation on BRAC University was organized for the senior students of Scholastica School on September 26, 2005 at their Uttara campus. Ms. Nilufar Dastagir, Senior Manager, Records, welcomed the BU team, which comprised of Dr. Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson, ARC Department, Dr. Zainab F. Ali, Director, Student Affairs, Ms Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Student Affairs Officer, Mr. Mahbub, Assistant System Administrator. Around 50 senior students in two sessions attended the seminar. Dr. Fuad Mallick and Dr. Ali briefed the students on BRAC, different programs and activities of BRAC University and they also took questions from students on credit transfer, tuition fee waiver, and affiliation with other international universities.

BUCC Unreal Tournament 2005

The BUCC Unreal Tournament 2005, a gaming contest was held from September 25-29, 2005. About 9 teams consisting of 54 players applied for registration and 6 teams were accepted. 36 players competed for 3 days. Finally, a team named "Kalpurush" obtained the 1st position.

MDS Seminar

A seminar on "Thinking Interdependence: The Basic of game theoretic reasoning" was held on September 24, 2005. Dr. Fahad Khalil, Associate Professor, University of Washington delivered the main speech. Dr. Imran Matin, Head, MDS and faculty members, students were present in the session.

Friendship Football Match

A friendship football match between RS students and BU Campus TARC, Savar staff was held on September 21, 2005. In the match, the students beat the TARC staff.

Cultural Function

RS students organized a cultural program on September 20, 2005. The Program included music, dance and violin playing. Some members of the faculty from various departments also attended the function.

Pro-Vice Chancellor's Meeting

Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Saleuddin Ahmed sat with Campus Super, House Tutors and the student appointment holders, and exchanged views and discussed various aspects related to the Residential Semester (RS) on September 20, 2005

Angan Lecture 32

Architect Ishtiaque Kamal presented an Angan studio lecture titled 'Construction-Document-Process' on September 19, 2005. Mr. Kamal is a practicing architect in Philadelphia, USA. The lecture was focused on preparation of a full set of construction documents accompanied by illustrations. Mr. Kamal also talked about the process of construction management in his office. The Chairperson, teachers and students of the department of architecture attended the event.

Newsletter Activity

The first issue of Activity Newsletter of RS Semester was published on September 19, 2005. Each of the five

dorms brought out an original, innovative and ingenious publication. The three Dutch Student Volunteers coordinated the writing of the Newsletter.

Inauguration of MA in Governance and Development Programme (MGD)

The Inaugural Ceremony of MA in Governance and Development (MGD) Program was held at BCDM, Rajendrapur on September 17, 2005. Professor J R Choudhury VC, BU, Mr. A S M A Halim, Secretary, Ministry of Establishment, Mr. Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, ED-BRAC, Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, Director, Centre for Governance Studies, BU addressed the participants and guests. Twenty-five government officers and one trainer from BRAC Training Division have registered for the Masters Programme. In all there are seven female participants. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC BU, Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Deputy Executive Director, BRAC, Professor Abdur Rab, Chair MGB, Dr. Sayeed Salam, Chair CSE, Dr. Abdur Rob Khan Program Coordinator MDS Program, Registrar BU, Dr. Golam Samdani Fakir, Director, Training Division, BRAC and the Management Executives involved with the Program attended the function and the dinner. The Program was conducted by Dr. Matiur Rahman, Academic Coordinator, MGD Program.

BRAC Project Visit/Micro Lab Exercise

On September 17, 2005 137 students of RS were divided into two groups and assigned for BRAC project visit to Mankigang and Gazipur and for micro lab exercise at TARC. The Micro-Lab was conducted smoothly. The students took very keen interest in their work. It gave them a rare experience, which they highlighted in their reflections. BRAC visit was also conducted successfully.

Study Trip

As part of ARC 101:Design Studio I, the Department of Architecture organized a study trip to Curzon Hall, Dhaka University for the students of the Freshmen I on September 14, 2005. The main objective of the trip was to let the students be familiar with our colonial heritage. The students studied the architectural features of the buildings and did free hand sketches. Chairperson Dr. Fuad H Mallick, design studio teachers Dr. Zainab F Ali, Yasmin Ara & guest lecturer Architect Sirajuddin Raju accompanied the 22 students on this half-day tour.

Handball Competition

RS handball competition between the girls' dorm, Maloncho and Nikunjo was held on September 14, 2005 at Savar Campus. Maloncho became the champion.

Digital Photography Competition 2005

BRAC University Photography Club (BUPC) announced their Digital Photography Competition 2005 on September 13, 2005. The program was preceded by a lecture on 'Digitally Altered Photographs' by prominent photographer Obaidul Fattah Tanvir.

BU President Participated in IRRI

Mr. F H Abed, Chairperson, BRAC and President BU Governing Board and also member, IRRI (International Rice Research Institute) Board of Trustees and Chair, Finance & Audit Committee, IRRI, participated in institutes' Board of Trustees Meeting, held at Bali, Indonesia from September 14-16, 2005. Prior to the meeting, he also attended the International Rice Conference (IRC 2005) on September 12-13, 2005. Besides the full board of trustees meeting Mr. Abed also attended the program, finance, audit and nominating committee meetings.

Film Show

BU Film Club organised a film show 'My Architect' on September 12, 2005. A discussion session was held with the Director Nathaniel Kahn, son of famous Master Architect Louis I Kahn and Producer Susan Behr. Michelle Jones, Cultural Attache of Embassy of the United States of America was present in the session. BU Film Club screened famous Bangla film 'Lal Salu' by Tanvir Mokammel on September 15, 2005.

VC in STS Forum

Professor J. R. Choudhury was invited by the Japanese Science and Technology Agency, Government of Japan, to the Second Annual Meeting on "Science and Technology in Society" (STS) Forum held in Kyoto on September 11-13, 2005. This high-profile global event was participated by some of the best known scientists, including 10 Nobel Laureates, Presidents/Chairpersons of National Academies of Sciences from round the world, CEOs and Heads of Research from well-known multinational corporations and Presidents/Vice Chancellors from well-known universities round the world. He was one of the speakers in the session on "Human Security". Besides, he was also one of the invited speakers in the 1st Asian Science and Technology Forum held in Tokyo on September 9, 2005 where he made a presentation on "Application of Science and Technology in Flood, Cyclone and Storm Surge Risk Management". He was one the Keynote Speakers in the Tokyo Roundtable of World Alliance Forum held in Tokyo on September 14, 2005 and made a presentation on "Bridging the Digital Divide - a view from Bangladesh".

ARC Lecturer Joins Ohio State University

A. Q. M. Abdullah, lecturer, Department of Architecture joined the Master of Architecture (M. Arch) program in Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA. He got three scholarships along with his admission [Thompson Scholarship for Outstanding Application, Yessios Scholarship for Outstanding Candidate with an interest in Computer-Aided Design and Use of an apartment for Outstanding Student]. Mr. Abdullah left BU on September 09, 2005, on study leave, for two years.

Club Fair Fall 2005

Club Fair, Fall Semester 2005 was held at BU Indoor Games Complex on September 08, 2005. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor, 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.

ECDRC of BU-IED

A national Working Group on Early Childhood Development (ECD), consisting of Government and non-Government representatives, have decided to locate the Secretariat of the national Early Childhood Development network at the Early Childhood Development Resource Centre (ECDRC) of BU, Institute of Educational Development (BU-IED).

The ECD Network has developed a directory and website for sharing information, programs and activities in Bangladesh. The official inauguration of the ECD Directory and Network took place on September 07, 2005 at BIAM auditorium with the presence of the Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, the representatives of UNICEF and Save the Children, USA, and participants from over one hundred organizations active in ECD.

BU-GB Meeting

The 16th BRAC University Governing Board (BU-GB) meeting was held in BU Conference Room on September 06, 2005. Mr. F H Abed, Chairperson BRAC and President BU-GB, chaired the meeting.

ESS Working Paper Launched

The Department of Economics and Social Science (ESS) launched Working Paper Series on September 05, 2005. The research contributions of the ESS faculty members published as working papers were presented at this launch. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU, inaugurated the launching event.

Fall Semester-2005 Begins

Fall Semester 2005 began with all regular activities on September 04, 2005.

Residential Semester Fall, 2005

141 students departed for Residential Semester, Fall 2005 in BU Campus, Savar on September 03, 2005.

Appointment of Pro-VC at BU

The Hon'ble President of Bangladesh and the Chancellor of BRAC University has confirmed the appointment of Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, early this month. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed was a Deputy Executive Director of BRAC prior to joining his present position. In his long professional career, Dr. Ahmed started as a Research Officer in the External Resources Division of the Ministry of Planning, and worked in BRAC in different capacities in Rural Development, Child Survival and Training & Human Resource Development program since he joined the organisation in 1979. The organisation has grown exponentially in the 80s and Dr. Ahmed had contributed in the formation and development of organisational policies, structures and strategies. He became the Deputy Executive Director of BRAC in 1998. He was one of the initiators of the innovative Global Partnership Program for the capacity building of national and international NGO leaders and managers. He is the Chair of Global Partnership. In 2004 Dr. Ahmed became a Fulbright Scholar in the USA and taught for a year at the School for International Training and Marlboro College, Vermont, USA. In addition to the above he had also attended Executive Development Program (5-Week) at the Harvard Business School in 2000 and workshops on Innovations in Governance at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University in 2004 and 2005. Dr. Ahmed received a B.A. (Honours) and an M.A. in Economics from University of Dhaka and a PhD in Economics from the University of Kharkov, Ukraine. He also did a Masters in Management (MM) degree from the Asian Institute of Management in Manila. Dr. Ahmed joined BU as Pro-VC on August 1, 2005.

Head MDS Program

Dr. Imran Matin, Director Research and Evaluation Division (RED) joined as the Head of the Master of Development Studies (MDS) Program at BU. This position is a complement to his present designation as the Director of RED, BRAC. Dr. Matin will work to improve the quality of the teaching/learning of the MDS Program and strengthen the curriculum by utilizing current research knowledge and best practices in development and make linkages between BRAC's own development programs and those of the University. The appointment has been made effective from September 4, 2005. Dr. Imran Matin did his Masters in Development Economics and Ph.D. in Economics from IDS, Sussex, UK. Before joining BRAC he was in World Bank, Washington DC. He became Director RED, BRAC in August, 2003.

The Second Session of Arch.KIDS

The second session of Arch.KIDS: an outreach program of the Department of Architecture was held on

September 03, 2005. The session 'My Dream Street' focused on the streets the children use regularly on their way to home and schools to explore how the children conceptualize and visualize their dream streets for their safety, comfort and enjoyment. 20 students from the Sunnydale and Sunbeams Schools participated in the three dimensional desirable remodeling of the Road 27 (old) of Dhanmondi after a session of intelligent arguments and discussion. Each of them also wrote down one wish in a postcard to the Mayor of Dhaka, which were delivered to him later. The Chairperson Professor Fuad H Mallick gave away the certificates to the participants. Prominent writer Anisul Haque and Architect Ahsanullah Majumder were also present as guests in the program.

Bachelor of Science in Physics Started

MNS Department started the undergraduate program in Physics from Fall 2005, Semester.

Paper published in IEEE Digital System Design Conference

A paper by Sumon Shahriar titled " An Advanced minimization technique for multiple valued multiple output logic expressions using LUT and realization using Current Mode CMOS" published in the IEEE 8th EUROMICRO CONFERENCE ON DIGITAL SYSTEM DESIGN Architectures, Methods and Tools (<http://dsd2005.univ-rennes1.fr>), held in Porto, Portugal, August 30 - September 3, 2005. The paper was selected for 15 minutes presentation. This paper was with Dr. Hafiz MD. Hasan Babu, Chairman, Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Dhaka.

Paper Accepted in IEEE Digital System Design Conference

A paper by Naushad UzZaman and Dr. Mumit Khan titled, "A Double Metaphone Encoding for Bangla and its Application in Spelling Checker" accepted in IEEE International Conference on Natural Language Processing and Knowledge Engineering (IEEE NLP-KE 2005) <http://www.ccai.cn:8086/nlp-ke05>, to be held on October 30 - November 01, 2005, Donghu Hotel, Wuhan, China. This paper proposed a phonetic encoding to improve the quality of suggestions for misspelled Bangla words.

Another paper by Naushad UzZaman and Dr. Mumit Khan titled "T12: AN ADVANCED TEXT INPUT SYSTEM WITH PHONETIC SUPPORT FOR MOBILE DEVICES" accepted in IEE Mobility Conference <http://www.mobility05.org>, to be held in November 15-17, 2005, Majestic Hotel, Guangzhou Hotel, China. This paper proposed a text input system that work as an extension to popular T9 text input system. The proposed T12 system can spell check during the text input in mobile devices.

BRAC Included in Dhaka University Curriculum

The Social Welfare and Research Institute of Dhaka University included the study of BRAC and its vision, mission and program in their curriculum. In a letter sent by the Acting Director of the institute it was mentioned that BRAC publications, namely the annual reports, research monographs, newsletters were being regularly used as resource materials by the teachers and students of the institute under the Honours, Masters, M-Phil and Ph.D. courses.

New Appointments

Mr. Shafat Ali Joined in ESS department on September 18, 2005. He obtained his graduation degree from NSU in Economics and did M.A. from York University, Canada. Ms Nahid Sultana and Mr Kamrul Hasan joined on September 18, 2005. Ms Nahid completed her Honors and Masters in Economics from Jahangir Nagar University. Mr Kamrul obtained his Honors and Masters Degree in Sociology from Dhaka University.

Mr. Ali Salman joined in the MGB department on September 18, 2005. He graduated from Assumption

University, Bangkok, he obtained his Masters degree from University of New South Wales Sydney, Australia.

Mr. Rajat Shuvro Roy and Ms. Sonia Sharmin joined in CSE department on September 1, 2005. Both did their BSc Engineering from BUET.

Mr. Abu Md Shamsuzzaman, Mr. Iftekhar Md Shafiqul Kalam, Ms. Nawshaba and Mr Maruf Ahmed joined MNS department on September 1, 2005. Mr Shamsuzzamnan did MSc in Physics from Rajshahi University. Mr. Kalam completed his Honours & Masters degrees in Statistics from Dhaka University. Ms. Nawshaba obtained her Masters degree from Dhaka University in Applied Statistics and Mr. Maruf did masters in Mathematics from Dhaka University.

Mr. Rakesh Saha and Mr. Shahidul Islam joined ENH department on September 1, 2005. Mr. Reakesh did his BA (Hons) in English from Calcutta University and MA from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Mr Islam did his Honors and MA in English from Dhaka University. Ms Sahana Bajpaie joined ENH on September 7, 2005. She completed her Honors and Masters in English from Visha - Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal.

Ms Humaira Husain joined ESS department on September 4, 2005. She has completed her Honors and Masters in Economics from Dhaka University.

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