

2004/october

Midterm Exams, Fall 2004

Midterm Exams of Fall 2004 started on October 31, 2004. The Exams ended on November 4, 2004. During the week, classes and other regular activities were held as per schedule.

Library Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Library Committee of Ayesha Abed Library, BU was held on Wednesday October 27, 2004 at 10.00 am in the BU Library. All members of the committee were present. Professor Abdur Rab, Chair MGB and Chair BU Library Committee chaired the Meeting.

Activity News Letter (ANL) Published

First edition of the Activity News Letter (ANL) came out from all four dorms of the BU Campus, TARC, Savar on October 26, 2004. The aim is to encourage creative writing in English among students. The target is to publish one ANL from each dorm every alternate week.

BRAC Chairperson interviewed on UN Day

Founder and Chairperson of BRAC and President BU Governing Board, Mr. F H Abed gave an interview for BTV which encompassed the role of the United Nations from a global perspective, the development of Bangladesh and Mr. Abed as the recipient of the 2004 UNDP Award. The interview was aired on October 24, 2004 on the occasion of the International United Nations Day, on BTV and BTV World.

Daily Diary Writing Competition

Daily Diary Writing Competition was launched in BU Campus, TARC, Savar on October 23, 2004. The new individual competition item for Residential Semester (RS) students aims at encouraging students in creative writing in English. The students are expected to write a few sentences in the diary every day. Three best diary writers will be given awards at the end of the RS.

Launch of 'International Guidelines on Community Road Safety '

BRAC, Road Safety Cell of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and Transport Research Laboratory (TRL), UK, held a seminar on October 21, 2004 at the BRAC Centre Inn to launch the international guidelines on Community Road Safety Education in developing countries produced by Transport Research Laboratory (TRL), UK. The seminar was chaired by Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU. The International Guidelines that were launched in the seminar were designed after conducting action research projects in Bangladesh, India, South Africa and Ghana. In Bangladesh, the research was conducted in Betila, Manikganj by BRAC in conjunction with TRL from May 2003 to April 2004, outcome of which was presented by Mr. Ahmed Najmul Hussain, Director, Administration & Special Projects, BRAC. Barrister Nazmul Huda MP, Honorable Minister of Communications, Government of Bangladesh attended the seminar as Chief Guest. Special Guests included Mr. M. Shafiqul Islam, Secretary, Ministry of Communications, Government of Bangladesh, Mr. Michael Scott, Head of Infrastructure, DFID, Bangladesh, and Mr. David Hughart, Acting Country Director, World Bank.

Global Program on Health

The World Bank, World Health Organization, Rockefeller Foundation and Gate Foundation have agreed to jointly fund a global program on Health Equity that will be housed at the James P Grant School of Public Health, BU. The message was received at BU on October 14, 2004.

Doctoral Student from IIM Visit BU

Mr.M.Scalem, a Doctoral Student of Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kolkata arrived on October 14, 2004 to collect data for his doctoral thesis on 'Secure Decentralized Disaster Management Information Network (sDDMIN)'. He will be meeting concerned BU faculty members, officials of concerned Government departments, NGOs and relevant specialists for this purpose. He is visiting Bangladesh under the AMDISA Doctoral Fellowship Program. Department of MGB of BU, a member institution of AMDISA, is providing contact addresses and office support.

Enterprise Computing Seminar Series

Mr. Matin S. Abdullah, lecturer and member of the "Enterprise Software Development Group", Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), gave a lecture on "Developing Enterprise Software: A first look at J2EE" on Thursday, October 14, 2004 at. Faculty members and students of department of CSE attended the lecture.

Webster University (Thailand) Team Visited BU

A two-member team from Webster University Thailand campus conducted a PowerPoint and video presentation on Webster University for the BU students on October 13, 2004. Ms. Gloria S Walker Department Head, Media & Communications Department and Ms Nicola Hewett, Director of Admissions, represented Webster University and briefed the students on its different programs and facilities. About 80 students attended the informal seminar and participated in the question and answer session. Ms. Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Student Affairs Officer, BU coordinated the Program.

Library Software Installed

Complete new Library Management Software was installed in Ayesha Abed Library, BU on October 11, 2004. The Software Module was developed jointly by BBN and BU. Professor J R Choudhury, VC, Chairs of the Departments, faculty members, MD BBN and students attended the Installation function.

Residential Semester Fall 2004

Fall Residential Semester (RS), 2004 started, at TARC Savar with the arrival of 137 students, including 58 females, on the morning of October 9, 2004. An orientation session followed by a seminar on setting the Code of Conduct for the RS was held in the Markuli Hall in the same evening. Dr. AMR Chowdhury, DED BRAC and Dean of the James P Grant School of Public Health, BU attended the program as a Special Guest. Mr.Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Campus Super, BU Campus, TARC, Savar conducted the Program. Regular classes started from October 10, 2004.

BU Cultural Club Arranged 'Jalsha'

BU Cultural Club arranged 'Jalsha 1: Modern Songs' on October 7, 2004 at the Indoor Games Room in BU. Members of the cultural club performed modern songs ranging from the sixties to contemporary in front of a full audience. A few performers presented their own compositions. Mr. Shams M. Ghani, Advisor Cultural Club conducted the show.

MGB Chairperson Visit Hyderabad

Professor Abdur Rab, Chairperson of Department of Management & Business (MGB) visited Hyderabad, India from October 4-8, 2004 to participate as an expert in the international team for assessing ICFAI Business School (IBS), Hyderabad, for accreditation. IBS is one of the three business schools that are having the assessment as pilot schools for setting up the South Asian Quality System (SAQS) for Business Schools by the Association of Management Development Institutions in South Asia (AMDISA). The other two business schools are Lahore University of Management Science (LUMS) in Pakistan and Management Development Instruction (MDI) in Gurgaon in India. Under the Asia Link Program, European Federation of Management Development (EFMD) is assisting AMDISA to design and launch the above named accreditation system. In the first phase, AMDISA finalized the accreditation criteria and procedures and tested the criteria and procedure on the three pilot schools as mentioned earliest. In the second phase, AMDISA is going to

develop organization and management systems to launch the program of accreditation from 2006. Department of MGB, BU is a member of AMDISA and it is planning to apply for SAQS Accreditation in due time.

BU Teams Visit Colleges

BU team comprising students (former students of the colleges) and led by Ms. Maheen Tabassum, Student Counselor visited Holy Cross College and Viqarun Nisa Noon School & College on October 07, 2004. Another team of five BU students (former students of the colleges) led by Mr. M Mahfuzul Haque, Student Counselor visited Ideal College and City College on October 05, 2004. The teams met the students of the colleges and briefed them about the Programs and facilities of BU and invited the students to visit BU. Another team of BU visited Notre Dame College and Dhaka College on October 04, 2004 and briefed the graduating students and their parents about the BU Programs and the various facilities available at BU.

President GB receives the UNDP Award

BRAC Chairperson and President BU Governing Board (GB) Mr. F H Abed has been awarded the 2004 UNDP Mahbub-ul-Haq Award for Outstanding Contribution to Human Development in recognition of his 'commitment to empowering the poor' and 'success in expanding choices and providing opportunities for women and other marginalized groups in Bangladesh.' The award, created in the year 2000 and presented biennially, recognizes outstanding initiatives in furthering the understanding and progress of human development in a national, regional, or global context. To date, two such awards have been offered, the first of which was awarded to President Henrique Cardoso of Brazil, and Mr. Abed is the winner of the second. The announcement of the award was made on October 06, 2004.

BU-GWU Partnership

BRAC University (BU)- George Washington University (GWU) partnership grant for 3 years has been approved by the State Department of the US Government under the University-to-University Partnership Program Grant. It is expected that BU will benefit tremendously through this partnership with GWU, Washington DC, USA in the Capacity Building of BU. The confirmation of the approval of the grant was received at BU on October 4, 2004.

Presentation on 'Setting Up a Business Venture'

BU Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF) organized a seminar on "Setting up a business venture" on October 04, 2004. Mr. Don Yansen of Hartwell Associates, Cambridge, USA conducted the seminar as a keynote speaker. In his presentation, Mr. Yansen emphasized the importance of building an entrepreneurial infrastructure in Bangladesh. Drawing on successful examples of young entrepreneurs around the world including Bangladesh, he highlighted the significance of their contribution to the development of business all over the world. Over fifty students, professionals, faculties of BU and academicians attended the seminar from various departments of the universities and other private organizations. Dr. Nazrul Islam, Associate Professor, MGB and advisor, EDF facilitated the Seminar.

Seminar on US Election

BRAC University and American Center jointly organized a seminar on US Election at BRAC Centre Inn on October 03, 2004. The presentation was conducted by Ms. Carole Hillard, former Lieutenant Governor of South Dakota, USA. A 'full-house' audience included Professor J R Choudhury, VC BU and Mr. Abdul Mueed Chowdhury, ED BRAC. Mr. Jonathan Cebra, Director American Centre was also present and briefly spoke on the occasion. Professor A M Muazzam Husain, Chair, Department of Economics & Social Science of BU welcomed the guests and introduced the Speaker.

President GB attend CSP Meeting

BRAC's founder and Chairperson and President Governing Board, BU Mr. F H Abed attended a meeting organized by the interim Secretariat of the Child Survival Partnership (CSP) in New York City from

September 30 to October 01, 2004 in the UNICEF House at UN Plaza to forge a collective vision and business plan to reduce child mortality. CSP has been so far joined by organizations like UNICEF, WHO, WB, USAID, CIDA, GATES Foundation with partner countries, professional, academic and research institutions. An interim Secretariat of the CSP has been set up and an interim Steering Committee has been guiding the work of the CSP during its period of initial development and organization of the Secretariat and Partnership.

New Teacher Join BU

Ms. Sabina Faiz Rashid joined as Lecturer in the James P Grant School of Public Health of BU on October 01, 2004. She did her Bachelor and Masters in Anthropology and Sociology from The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. She later obtained her Ph.D. from the same university.

Architecture Students Working as Art Directors

Nafisur Rahman and Nusrat Kabir students of junior year of the Department of Architecture are the Art Directors for the television serial "Sixty Nine" directed by Mustafa Sarwar Faruque and telecast by Channel I from October 2004.

Dr. Shahdeen Malik's Book Published

A book written by Dr. Shahdeen Malik, Director School of Law, BRAC University --- The Children Act, 1974: A Critical Commentary -- has been published by Save the Children (SC), UK. It is being translated into Bangla and SC will do a launching/publication with both the versions.

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