

2002/november

Club/Forum Fair (Mela) Organized

BU Club Fair/Mela was organized at PRANGAN between 10.00 AM and 3.00 PM on November 18, 2002. The lively Mela was formally inaugurated by Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU, and was attended by the students and teachers of BU and the Senior Executives of BRAC. All the 12 Clubs /Forums set up individual stalls at the Mela. The Blood Donation Society, BU also set up a stall where a large number of teachers and students signed up as donors.

A Computer Game Developed

Muhammad Sharif Muktadir a Freshman of CSE Department has developed a computer based online "Shap Luddo" (Snake and Ladder) Game. "Mukta Luddo", the digital online version of the popular rural Bangladeshi game was demonstrated in the Club/Fair Mela held in PRANGAN of BU on November 18, 2002. A team of four to six persons located in different places or even in different countries may play this game online. A large number of teachers and students observed the demonstration of the interesting game with excitement. This is probably the first online game developed in Bangladesh.

MCA Program Approved

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved the BU proposal for conducting the Masters in Computer Application (MCA) Program. The approval letter was signed on November 13, 2002. Department of Computer Science & Engineering may now start the Program at any time of their convenience.

Vice Chancellor in Asian University for Women Planning Conference in Boston, USA

The Asian University for Women (AUW), <http://www.asianuniversity.org/> is proposed to be set up in Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh has agreed to enact legislation to enable AUW to operate as an international institution. Prof. J R Choudhury, VC, BU participated in the Planning Conference on AUW held at Wellesley College, Boston from November 3 to November 4, 2002. He made a presentation on "Student Recruitment for AUW" and was a panelist in the session on "Faculty Recruitment". In addition, the two-day conference discussed the various issues relating to fund-raising, campus planning, implementation schedule and curriculum development.

Midterm Exams Held

The Midterm Exams of Fall 2002 were held from November 2 to November 10, 2002.

Vice Chancellor Visits Shanghai, China

Prof. J R Choudhury, VC, BU was invited to participate in "The Third International Workshop On Earthquakes And Megacities : Reducing Vulnerability - Increasing Sustainability of the World's Megacities", held in Shanghai, China from October 31 to November 2, 2002. The workshop was organized by the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI), <http://www.megacities.physik.uni-karlsruhe.de/>, China Seismological Bureau (CSB), Shanghai Municipal People's Government and Shanghai Seismological Bureau (SSB). It focused on local initiatives for reducing vulnerability of large urban areas and the relationship of these initiatives to sustainable development for megacities. The workshop analyzed urban vulnerability reduction by addressing four components: Community Participation, Public Policy Actions, Land-Use Planning and Infrastructure Strengthening, and Implementation of a Culture of Prevention. As one of the megacities with a high degree of vulnerability to earthquakes, Dhaka has been included in "The Cluster Cities Project"

initiated by EMI.

Dr. Salehuddin's Travel Report

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director, BRAC and Treasurer, BRAC University visited USA, Costa Rica and UK between October 27 and November 11, 2002. During the period he visited the following institutions:

1. October 27-29, 2002

School for International Training (SIT), Vermont, USA

2. October 30-November 2, 2002

The World Bank, Washington DC, USA

3. November 3-4, 2002

Northwestern University, Chicago, USA

4. November 5-8, 2002

The Earth University, Costa Rica

5. November 10-11, 2002

University of Glasgow, Strathclyde University, Glasgow City Council, Glasgow, Scotland, UK

*At SIT, Vermont, he attended a workshop on e GP, meaning electronically delivering the Global Partnership programs. He also chaired a meeting of the Board of Global Partnership where it was decided that a part of the Global Partnership Diploma/Masters Course on NGO Leadership would be conducted online.

*The World Bank's Private Sector Development Group organized a Seminar for Dr. Ahmed at the World Bank (WB) Headquarters. Dr. Ahmed exchanged views with about 50 WB professionals about BRAC and various programs of BRAC including the commercial ventures of the grassroots women. Dr. Ahmed attended another seminar organized for the Bangladeshi professionals of World Bank and the IMF where the various programs of BRAC and the roles of NGOs in the development of Bangladesh were discussed.

*At the Medical School of Northwestern University, Chicago Dr. Ahmed conducted a class of 3rd Year students on Public Health. Some graduate students and a couple of professors were also present there. The objective of the class was to give an exposure to the students about how public health programs were implemented in a developing country such as Bangladesh.

*At Earth University, Costa Rica, Dr. Ahmed had meetings with Professor James French, Acting President of the University and Professor Daniel Scherrard, Academic Dean of the University. During the meeting Dr. Ahmed was given a detailed understanding of the goals, objectives and the concept of Education of the Earth University. They also discussed the possible areas of collaboration between Earth University and BU.

*In Glasgow, United Kingdom Dr. Ahmed met Professor Farhad Noorbaksh, the Head of the Centre for Development Studies, Glasgow University, Professor Nick Hanley, Professor of Environmental Economics, Glasgow University, Dr. Mozammel Huq, Professor of Economics, Strathclyde University and Dr. Malcolm Green, Councillor, Glasgow City Council. All of them expressed their willingness to assist and support BU in all possible ways.