

2001/june

## **English Debating Club**

A meeting of the Debating Club was held on 23 June 2001. It was decided that a debating practice would be held on every Sunday from 3 pm to 5 pm. The format of the debate would be British Parliamentary style as this format is the most popular and widely followed format in the world. A briefing on the rules of this format was given by Mr. Mohiuddin, the adviser of the Debating Club.

## **Classes Resume**

After Mid Term recess all scheduled classes and regular activities have resumed from June 17, 2001.

## **BU Library Shifted**

Ayesha Abed Library, BRAC University has shifted to Aarong House Campus (3rd Floor). The library has started all activities from June 17, 2001.

## **BRAC University Inaugurated**

BRAC University was formally inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of Bangladesh and the Chancellor of BRAC University Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Osmani Memorial Hall, Dhaka on June 16, 2001. The ceremony was attended by seven hundred guests, among others, by members of Governing Board of BRAC University, educationists, lawyers, politicians, senior civil and military officers, diplomats, NGO leaders, students, parents, and elite of the society. For more details please see the "BRAC University Inauguration Program".

## **Prof. Selim Rashid Rejoins Urbana Champaign**

Prof. Selim Rashid has rejoined University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, USA after completing his tenure as Director Research, BRAC University on June 15, 2001.

## **VC Visits IT Installation in India**

Prof. J. R. Choudhury led a 12-member Bangladeshi delegation to India to discuss issues related to planning, design, implementation and operation of High-tech Parks. The team, comprising BUET faculty members and officials from Bangladesh Computer Council and Ministry of Science and Technology, is involved with a study commissioned by the Government of Bangladesh for setting up a Hitech City at Kaliakoir, about 40 km from Dhaka, for which 265 acres of land has already been allocated. They visited Bangalore (International Technology Park Ltd. and Software Technology Park at Electronic City and IIIT-B), Hyderabad (ICICI Knowledge Park, Hitech City and IIIT-H) and Kolkata (WEBEL at Salt Lake City). They also had discussions with relevant officials of the Government, including the Secretary, Dept. of IT, Andhra Pradesh, who made a presentation on the E-government initiatives of the government led by Mr. Chandrababu Naidoo. The team visited some of the projects (e.g. TWINS for One-s government service, CARD for registration of documents) being implemented by the government.

## **Prospects of BU-Canada Discussed**

The Canadian High Commissioner HE Mr. David Preston called on the Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury on June 11. The High Commissioner, who evinced keen interest in the present and future curricula of the university, discussed prospects of cooperation between BRAC University

and Canadian universities.

## **Seminar on Compact Township**

Professor Selim Rashid, Professor of Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, currently Director of Research, BRAC University, conducted a Seminar on "Compact Township as a Strategy for Economic Development" on Thursday, 7 June 2001 in the Seminar Room of BRAC University. The Seminar was attended by a large number of academics and environmental specialists from different Universities and organizations.

## **Prof. Subir's Visit to BU**

Professor Subir Bandyopadhyay, a distinguished Professor of Computer Science at the University of Windsor (Canada), is on a visit to Dhaka. He is conducting a course on Object Oriented Programming in Java covering over 60 hours at BRAC Information Technology Institute. Twenty-one IT Professionals are attending the Course.

During his visit he also had meetings with Senior Teachers and Faculty Members of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering of BRAC University.

Professor Bandyopadhyay attended a special discussion session on "The difference between Higher Education/University for Computer Science and the Training Institutes", at 'BRAC Centre Auditorium' on June 9, 2001.

## **VC Inaugurates a Cyber-Kiosk**

Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, inaugurated a cyber-kiosk at the National Press Club along with a website ([www.sdnbd.org](http://www.sdnbd.org)) and a compact disk (CD) titled "Sustainable Development Information Bank". The cyber-kiosk was established for the journalists as well as the common people to celebrate World Environment Day 2001. National Press Club (NPC), Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and Sustainable Development Networking Program (SDNP) of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) jointly sponsored the program.

Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury said the number of Internet users across Bangladesh have reached 4 lakh mark and number of direct Internet subscriber is over 80,000. Terming June 6 as a special day in the IT (Information Technology) history of Bangladesh Professor J R Chowdhury recalled that Bangladesh was first directly connected to Internet on June 6, 1996. He noted that deregulation on VSAT has resulted in the per minute charge of Internet. Now some ISP's (Internet Service Providers) are charging 40 paisa per minute and soon they will charge only 25 paisa per minute or even lesser than that. He said internet-kiosk in all press clubs and news organizations across the country would greatly assist the working journalists.

## **Mid Term Test**

The Mid Term Test of Spring Semester 2001 was held between 3 June and 9 June 2001. Thereafter, the students are currently having a weeklong recess. The University classes will resume from 17 June 2001.