

Annual Report

2008



BRAC University

Editorial Committee

Dr. Wasiqur Rahman Khan
Ms. Nausheen Eusuf
Ms. Afroza Sultana
Mr. Monojit Kumar Ojha
Mr. Md. Arifuzzaman
Mr. Md. Khaleq Newaz

Copyright © 2009 BRAC University

May 2009

Publisher:

BRAC University
66 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212
Bangladesh

Telephone: 882 4051-4 (PABX)
Fax: 881 0383
Email: info@bracu.ac.bd
Website: <http://www.bracu.ac.bd>

Layout & Illustration: ***Md. Shahidul Islam***

Photograph: ***BRAC University Photography Club (BUPC)***

Coordinator: ***Mr. Obaidullah Al Zakir***

Table of Contents

Message from the President, Governing Board	5
Message from the Vice Chancellor	7
Governance	
Governing Board	9
Academic Council	10
Introduction to BRAC University	11
Eight Year of BRAC University	12
Academic Progress	17
Partners in Education	18
Departments	
Department of Architecture	19
Department of Computer Sciences and Engineering	28
Department of English and Humanities	36
Department of Economics and Social Sciences	39
Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences	46
Schools	
BRAC Business School	60
School of Law	66
James P. Grant School of Public Health	67
Institutes and Centres	
Institute of Educational Development	85
Institute of Governance Studies	90
BRAC Development Institute	95
Centre for Languages	107
Student Affairs	
Clubs and Forums	112
Residential Semester	118
Career Services Office	125
Center for Global Development Learning Network	129
Financial Assistance	134
Resources and Facilities for Learning	135
Annex-A : List of Faculty Member	143
Annex-B : Administration and Management	148
Annex-C : Independent Auditors' Report	150



BRAC UNIVERSITY



Message from the President of the Governing Board, BRAC University

BRAC University started its journey only eight years ago with the goal of creating a center of excellence in higher education that would equip students to be effective leaders in responding to the needs of today's complex society. To this end, the university provides a broad-based education that will equip students to successfully tackle the challenges of the future.

Today, the university offers eleven undergraduate programs, as well as postgraduate programs in Development Studies, Public Health, Governance and Development, Business Administration, Disaster Management, Biotechnology, English, Applied Economics, and Early Childhood Development.

I am happy to note that BRAC University strives to attract meritorious students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and supports them via merit-based and need-based scholarships. A total of Tk 2.97 crore was disbursed as financial aid in 2008.

The Residential Semester (RS) at the BRAC Training and Resource Center in Savar is one of the unique features of BRAC University. The RS promotes holistic development through specially designed courses, field trips, sports, cultural activities, etc.

Our graduates are doing well in the job market, and I am confident that with the knowledge and skills gained at BRAC University, our students will go on to pursue successful careers as well as contribute to society in a meaningful way.

In the coming year, let us renew our commitment to BRAC University's mission and take determined strides towards achieving its vision. The continued vitality of this institution will no doubt bring many benefits to society in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fazle Hasan Abed".

Fazle Hasan Abed
President, Governing Board





BRAC UNIVERSITY

Professor Jamilur R. Choudhury
Ph.D FIE FICE (UK) CEng (UK)
Vice Chancellor



Message from the Vice Chancellor

The year 2008 marked seven years of BRAC University's existence, a frame of time which, though short chronologically, is remarkable for the progress made by the University. It is now safe to say that BRAC University (BRACU) is well and truly established as a recognised institution of tertiary education which has carved out its own space in the higher-education landscape of Bangladesh.

While we are justifiably proud of our efforts, the time has come to consolidate our gains and strive for greater excellence. This is best accomplished through the generation of research output and becoming part of the global network of knowledge creation. With this next step in mind BRACU is encouraging a culture of research and initiative amongst its faculty and students alike. Of course, various BRACU institutes such as the Institute of Educational Development (IED), the Centre for Research on Bangla Language Processing (CRBLP), the new BRAC Development Institute (BDI), the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) and the James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) have continued their good work in conducting research of international calibre.

The last year saw the introduction of new programmes in Applied Physics and Electronics leading to a BSc, and Early Childhood Development leading to a Masters degree which is the first of its kind in the country. Furthermore, the Centre for Languages (CfL), in addition to its core mission of improving the English language skills of our students has begun to provide courses in a variety of foreign languages including Chinese, French, Spanish, Russian, Japanese and Arabic. These developments reflect BRACU's commitment to provide education that is relevant to contemporary requirements.

Our students continue to make their mark nationally and internationally. Some have won prestigious scholarships enabling them to pursue postgraduate studies overseas; most are gainfully employed in reputable national and trans-national institutions. We expect that the growing body of BRACU alumni will prove to be an asset not only to the University itself but to the country at large.

Our vision to create a truly great University remains intact. With your support we will continue to strive towards that goal. My warmest regards to you all.

Thank you.

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury
Vice-Chancellor



Residential Semester facilities, Savar



GOVERNANCE

Chancellor

Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed

Hon'ble President, People's Republic of Bangladesh

Vice Chancellor

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury

Pro-Vice Chancellor

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed

Treasurer

Mr. Sukhendra K. Sarkar

Registrar

Mr. Mahmood Hasan

GOVERNING BOARD

(as on 31st December 2008)

The Governing Board is the highest policy making body of BRACU. It is responsible for ensuring that the highest level of educational and administrative standards are set and maintained at BRACU. The current Governing Board consists of the following eminent personalities of Bangladesh:

President

Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed

Chairperson, BRAC

President, BRAC University

Advocate Sultana Kamal

Executive Director

Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK)

Members

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury

Vice Chancellor, BRAC University

Professor Dilara Chowdhury

Department of Government and Politics

Jahangir Nagar University

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed

Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRAC University

Mr. Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury

Chairman, BRAC Net

Mr. Faruq A. Choudhury

Former Foreign Secretary

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Sukhendra K. Sarkar

Treasurer, BRAC University

Professor Anisuzzaman

Supernumerary Professor

Dhaka University

Dr. Mahabub Hossain

Executive Director, BRAC

Prof. A. Mushtaque R. Chowdhury

Deputy Executive Director, BRAC

Dean, JPGSPH, BRACU

Member Secretary

Mr. Mahmood Hasan

Registrar, BRAC University

MEETINGS

The Governing Board had four quarterly meeting during the year 2008. The meeting of the Governing Board took place on March 25, July 14 and October 28. The Annual Governing Board Meeting was held on December 23, 2008.

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

(as on 31st December 2008)

The Academic Council recommends the educational policies of the university and determines the curricula and courses that can help achieve high educational standards. The council is currently composed of the following academics and professionals:

Chairperson

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury
Vice Chancellor
BRAC University

Professor Fuad H. Mallick

Chairperson, Architecture, BRAC University

Professor Firdous Azim

Chairperson, English & Humanities
BRAC University

Members

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed

Pro-Vice Chancellor
BRAC University

Dr. Anwarul Hoque

Chairperson, Economics and Social Sciences
BRAC University

Professor Iqbal Mahmud

Former Vice Chancellor, BUET

Professor A A Ziauddin Ahmad

Chairperson, Mathematics and Natural
Sciences BRAC University

Professor Zarina Rahman Khan

Department of Public Administration
Dhaka University

Dr. Shahdeen Malik

Director, School of Law
BRAC University

Professor Ainun Nishat

Country Representative, International Union
for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Mr. Khondoker Shamsuddin Mahmood

Head, Undergraduate Program
School of Law, BRAC University

Mr. Mamun Rashid

CEO, Citibank, NA

Ms. Erum Mariam

Director, Institute of Educational
Development, BRAC University

Mr. Mahbub Jamil

Chairman & Managing Director
Singer Bangladesh Ltd.

Professor Syed M. Hashemi

Director, Development Studies Program
BRAC University

Mr. Emad-Ul-Ameen

Director, Human Resource
GrameenPhone Ltd.

Barrister Manzoor Hasan

Director, Institute for Governance Studies
BRAC University

Dr. Perween Hasan

Professor of Islamic History and Culture
Dhaka University

Ms. Syeda Sarwat Abed

Director, CfL
BRAC University

Mr. Khalid Shams

"REEMA", 10 Eskaton Garden Road
Ramna, Dhaka-1000

Dr. Sayeed Salam

Chairperson, Computer Science and
Engineering, BRAC University

Member Secretary

Mr. Mahmood Hasan

Registrar, BRAC University

MEETINGS

BRACU Academic Council meetings were held on March 19, June 1, October 12 and November 27, 2008.

Introduction to BRAC University

Background

From a modest beginning almost thirty-six years ago, BRAC has today grown into one of the largest non-government development organizations in the world. It works in areas such as poverty alleviation, rural health care and non-formal education among many others to bring about socio-economic changes for a large number of our people, mostly women and children, whose lives are dominated by extreme poverty, illiteracy, disease and malnutrition. BRAC recognizes that development strategies, information technology and effective management can play significant roles in modernizing Bangladesh and in securing meaningful jobs for the Bangladeshi workforce at home and abroad. In line with BRAC's continual support to education as a force of change and development, BRAC University (BRACU) has been established to provide a high quality of education to meet the demands of the modern age. BRACU is accredited by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and approved by the Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh.

Mission

The mission of BRACU is to foster the national development process through the creation of a centre of excellence in higher education that is responsive to society's needs, is able to develop creative leaders and actively contributes to learning and creation of knowledge.

Goal

The goal of the university is to provide an excellent broad based education with a focus on professional development for students, in order to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary for leading the country in its quest for development. Along with this, the university provides an environment for faculty development. Faculty will be provided with an environment in which they can further enhance their teaching expertise and contribute to the creation of new knowledge by developing and using their research skills.

Scope

BRAC University will provide instruction and confer degrees in all branches of the Humanities, Social Sciences and Science and Technology. In addition, the university will offer Diploma programs on professional courses.

Organisational Structure

The Governing Board is the highest policy-making body of BRACU. The committees are: Academic Council, Course Committee, Finance Committee, Selection Committee, Audit Committee, Committee on Student Affairs, Committee on University Development and Committee on Medical Facilities. The Vice Chancellor is the Principal Academic and Executive Officer of the university. He is assisted by the Pro-Vice Chancellor in all matters. The Treasurer, supported by the Accounts Office, prepares and implements the financial policies. The academic wing of the University consists of Dean and Chairpersons of the Departments, Faculty members, and Teaching Assistants. The Director of the Teaching-Learning Centre is responsible for organizing training programs and guidance to faculty members in all professional issues. The Director of Student Affairs coordinates and supports all extra-curricular activities. The University library is headed by the Librarian who is assisted by Assistant Librarians. The Registrar along with the Assistant Registrars and Officers is responsible for planning and implementation of the academic calendar, logistics and administration, human resource management, technological services and records.

Eighth year of BRAC University

The eighth year of BRAC University was a year of remarkable activities for all the academic departments, schools, centers and institutes. Throughout the year the academic programs were well supported by frequent workshops, seminars, discussions and networking sessions to encourage students to acquire a passion for learning, discerning judgment and global perspective. In this year, BRAC University got approval for several undergraduate and graduate level programs from UGC. Some departments got new office spaces and laboratory allocations which enhanced the resources and facilities for the students to peruse quality education. With increasing student participation various clubs and forums also excelled in organizing sports, cultural and social events all year long. The co-curricular and extra-curricular activities had given the students the rare opportunity to reach outside classrooms and labs and experience life outside academia. The faculty members also took part in various events of national and international stature, making 2008 an enriching year over all.

MAJOREVENTS

➤ **15,000 Employees Gather to Celebrate BRAC's 35th Anniversary**

BRAC celebrated its 35th Anniversary. BRAC Founder and Chairperson, Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed, inaugurated the event. Highlights of the festivities included performances by popular artists including Runa Laila, Momtaz, Kumar Biswajit, Syed Abdul Hadi, Samina Chowdhury



and Salma. The event also included dance choreography by Lubna Mariam and dance performances by Ria and Sohel. Popular television personality Abdun Noor Tushar hosted the event as the master of ceremonies. Specially designed interactive games and raffle draws were included to engage the audience.

The event was organized to pay tribute to the commitment and decades of hard work of BRAC's staff in poverty alleviation in Bangladesh. Due to space constraints, only the oldest of BRAC's over 56,000 full-time staff, 60,000 schools teachers and 70,000 health volunteers were invited. Originally scheduled to be held on December 15, the 35th anniversary celebrations were postponed in order to pay tribute to the victims of Cyclone Cidr and because some 3,000 BRAC staff members were dedicated to full-time post-Cidr relief and rehabilitation efforts. Approximately 250 BRAC University students had volunteered to help organize this occasion.

➤ **Seminar on “Graduate Admission in the U.S.” Organized by the American center**

The Educational Advising Center of the American Center, U.S. Embassy, Dhaka organized a seminar on “Graduate Admission in the U.S.” at BRAC University on February 10, 2008. Dr. Zainab F. Ali, Director, Student Affairs, welcomed the team from the American Center. Mr. Chrales L. Jarrett, III, Second Secretary from the U. S. Embassy, Ms. Linda Das Quamer, Student Advising Outreach Coordinator, and Mr. Mirza M. Hassan, Outreach Librarian, briefed the students about the most updated information on the student visa procedure and the library facilities offered by the center.

➤ **BRAC University Students Negotiated in Model WTO 2008: St. Gallen & Geneva, Switzerland**

After evaluation of their essays on “Intellectual Property (IP) Rights Enforcement Regulations for Poor Countries” and “Special & Differential

Treatment (SDT) for Sustainable Development”, BRAC University students, Mr. Md. Rizwan Shamim (ESS Dept) and Mr. Iftekhar Ul Karim (BRAC Business School) was selected from numerous applicants to take part in the Model WTO 2008 (Trade & Sustainability) from May 4 - 9 in St. Gallen and Geneva, Switzerland. During the Model WTO 2008, they met with other students from all over the world as well as with distinguished academics, politics and business leaders. These experts shared their unique insights and experiences in a series of plenary sessions. Furthermore, they also took part in the negotiations on the most pressing issues the world trading system is facing today. After simulating the regular WTO minister conferences, they ended up with the Altstatten Declaration that was put forth to the WTO experts in World Trade Organization, Geneva.

➤ **Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Invited as the Keynote Speaker at “Bangladesh Conference” at Harvard University**

A two-day conference on “Bangladesh in the 21st Century” began at the Centre of Government and International Studies (CGIS) of Harvard University on June 13, 2008.

The inaugural session of the conference was addressed by Mr. Humayun Kabir, Bangladesh Ambassador to USA, Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Director of the Ash Institute, Professor Kazi F Jalal, Professor of Harvard Extension School,



Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, and Dr. Saad Andaleeb, Professor of Black School of Business of the Pennsylvania State University.

As a keynote speaker, Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury said despite impediments, development of Bangladesh is encouraging in different sectors including poverty alleviation and disaster management. He said during the post-independence period Bangladesh has been able to overcome several critical times. This time also, although through a critical process, Bangladesh will be able to reach its target.

Ambassador Farooq Sobhan from BEI and Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman chaired two sessions on Bangladesh's foreign policy and foreign relations and democracy and security policy. Ambassador Humayun Kabir in his speech said three things-- democracy, technology and globalisation--will control our lives in the 21st century. Ensuring these three things Bangladesh can become a middle income country, he added.

Former secretary Mr. Mashiur Rahman and eminent economist and executive director of BRAC Dr. Mahabub Hossain also spoke, among others. Other distinguished speakers at the conference are Dr. Rounaq Jahan from Columbia University and Mr. Mamun Rashid, Managing Director and Citibank country officer, Bangladesh.

A host of Bangladeshi scholars from home and abroad presented papers on various issues pertinent to politics, democracy, economy and growth challenges Bangladesh facing in the 21st century. Many Americans, including representative from US State Department, also attended the conference.

Harvard Kennedy School, Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Bangladesh Development Initiative, and Democracy and Development in Bangladesh Forum jointly organized the conference.

➤ **Pro-Vice Chancellor attends Chinese Language Program**

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University has attended a 4-Week “Beginners' Chinese Language Teachers' Training” from April 15 - May 16, 2008. This program was organized and sponsored by the Confucius Institute at the North South University. There were 16 teachers/trainers in the program. All the participants were on full scholarship by the Confucius Institute.

A Chinese Language Professor from Yunnan University, China, Professor Jiang, taught the group for the first three weeks in Dhaka and then the group was taken to Yunnan University, Kunming, China for one week's training. Four Yunnan University teachers taught during that one week. The students were also exposed to the other University programs and activities and a Middle school of the Yunnan University. Certificates were awarded to the participants by the Vice President of the Yunnan University, Dr. Xiao, at a simple ceremony in the University Campus.

After completion of the program, our Pro-VC mentions, “It was a very good program. In four weeks we learned the basics of Chinese Language, e.g., initials, vowels, pronunciations, tones, simple conversations, 75 Chinese characters etc. While in China we could practice our Chinese with the Chinese people on the street, in schools, at shops, banks, transports etc. It was a wonderful opportunity. All we need now is to practice and practice.”



➤ **Entrepreneurship Development Forum's (EDF) Rendezvous with Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed**

Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF) of BRAC Business School, BRAC University organized the mega event “Meet the Best Social Entrepreneur” on the 18th June, 2008 at BRAC Centre INN. This was the first time ever in the history of BRAC University, or any other university for the matter to award Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed and commemorating him as the Best Social Entrepreneur of the World. Accompanied by BRAC University's honorable Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed and the honorable Dean of BRAC Business School Professor Iftekhar Ghani Chowdhury, Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed shared words of encouragement and his experiences with the students present there. The function was anchored by EDF's third President, Abdullah Tahir Chowdhury, and the Writing and Publication Director Ms. Rudmila Ahmed and the Head Facilitator of the event was Mr. Iftekhar-Ul-Karim, International Relations and Communications Director of EDF. BRAC Entrepreneurship Development Forum is proud to have hosted and organized such an event, as they have brought one of the best social entrepreneurs of this world to the BRAC University students. The students present at the gathering were given the opportunity to personally interact with Mr. Abed. They asked questions about entrepreneurial activities both in home and abroad, shared their feelings, and extracted information from the dialogue. As EDF builds leaders to lead the future, it sets an example to achieve by inviting a true social entrepreneur to inspire us all.

➤ **Inauguration of the IEEE Student Branch @BRAC University**

The Inaugural Session of the IEEE (Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineers) Student Branch at BRAC University was held on July 06, 2008 at BRAC University Indoor Games room. The event started with a warm welcome and a brief presentation by the President of the IEEE Student Branch at BRAC University,



Mahdin Mahboob. Towards, the end of his presentation, he showed “IEEE Evolution”, a two-minute promotional video of IEEE showing the history of engineering.

The student branch was officially inaugurated when Professor Saifur Rahman, Chief Guest of the event, launched the student branch website. The Special Guest on the occasion was Professor Aynal Haque from BUET who is currently the Chair of IEEE Bangladesh Section. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, VC, BRAC University was also present in the event. Professor Sayeed Salam, Chairperson, CSE Department, Professor Mumit Khan, and Associate Professor Dr. A.K.M. Azad from CSE Department, were also present in the occasion and spoke about the importance of an IEEE membership and expressed their feelings about the new student branch at BRAC University. Mr. Mahmood Hasan, Registrar, BRAC University and faculty members from different departments were also present in the occasion.

The event concluded with the 'Vote of Thanks' by the Secretary of IEEE student branch, BRAC University, Nabila Naushin. She specially thanked the Chief Guest and the Special Guest for making time from their busy schedules and being present at the event and thanked all others who helped establish the student branch. The current Executive Body consists of Dr. A.K.M. Azad, Faculty Advisor, Mahdin Mahboob, President, Sunjib Kumar Singha, Vice-President, Annaji Alim Rasel, Treasurer and Nabila Naushin the Secretary of the branch. All of them, together with the help of a number of volunteers, worked day and night to make this

event a total success. The IEEE Student Branch plans to arrange a host of events in the near future including industrial tours and seminars.

➤ **BRAC University Students Negotiated at HPAIR 2008 (Harvard Business Conference), KL, Malaysia**

From a highly competitive pool of International Applicants, Iftekhar Ul Karim and Sabbir Hossain Chowdhury (BRAC Business School) were selected to participate and perform in the Harvard Project for Asians and International Relations (HPAIR), Business Conference 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 14-17 August, 2008. It is one of the mega events of Harvard University in Asia where selected students and young professionals worldwide come together to interact and learn about most dynamic areas of Asian business from the most prominent industry leaders. The conference seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of the current economic trends in Asia and create a forum for discussion of new developments in the region.

➤ **BRAC University Student receives Symbian Award (London)**

“The next wave of Smartphone innovation: Issues and opportunities with Smartphone technologies” was the overall theme for Symbian's (UK) first student essay contest. During the months of summer and early autumn 2008, students worldwide worked on essays addressing aspects of possible breakthrough applications and markets for Smartphones. Essays received were evaluated by Symbian judges for their degree of relevance, insight, clarity, readability, originality, evidence provided, and technical expertise. Numerous thought provoking and intelligent entries were received which made the judging process difficult. Finally, Iftekhar Ul Karim, student of BRAC Business School, BRAC University became one of the winners of the Symbian Contest (London) and received a prize of 1000 pound, for his innovative essay, “Opportunities with Smartphone technologies for the base of the pyramid.” Iftekhar's essay challenges

readers to consider novel uses of Smartphones for users in the so-called 'base of the pyramid' - the four billion poorest people on the planet.

➤ **BRAC University Students presented their projects at University of Witten, Germany**

Oikos conducted its 5th oikos Winter School at the University of Witten/Herdecke, Germany and brought together students and future decision makers from around the world in an interactive think tank on sustainable economics and management. Under the patronage of the European Parliament President, Prof. Dr. Hans-Gert Pottering, three students from BRAC Business School, BRAC University got selected for this effective coaching session and represented Bangladesh as sustainability project apprentices. Sadia Naureen Huq presented her project on “Water Purification & Storage Systems in Bangladesh”, Sabbir Hossain Chowdhury presented his project on, “Emerging Bangladesh” and Iftekhar Ul Karim (Student-Rep, oikos-Dhaka) presented his project on “Micro-Sustainability for the Bottom of the Pyramids (Focus: Delta)”. The students received certificates as recognition to their apprenticeship. German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) Bangladesh sponsored the entire tour with due dignity.

BRAC UNIVERSITY VISITORS

His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester visited the Department of Architecture of BRAC University on 7th May 2008. The duke along with the British High Commissioner and his entourage were received by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury at the university



and Prof. Fuad H Mallick the Chairperson of the Department of Architecture and Director of the Post Graduate Programmes in Disaster Management. He was then introduced to the university's mission and goals by the VC. The Duke then went around different design studios of the department and talked to the teachers and students about their class projects. The projects ranged from basic design work to large-scale urban renewal projects.

This was followed by a discussion on human settlements and architectural issues in Bangladesh and the Department's vision. The discussion continued with issues relating to Disaster Management with some of the department work in that field and the role of the University's Post Graduate Programs in Disaster Management.

Participating in the discussions were His Excellency Mr. Anwar Chowdhury, British High Commissioner, Mr. Mahmood Hasan, Registrar, Dr. Anwarul Haque, Chairperson, Department of Economics, Dr. Iftekhar Ghani Chowdhury, Dean, BRAC Business School and faculty members of Architecture department, BRAC University.

Academic Progress

BRAC University offers four year undergraduate bachelor degree in

- Architecture
- Business Administration (BBA)
- Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)
- Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE)
- Applied Physics & Electronics (APE)
- Computer Science (CS)
- Mathematics
- Economics
- English
- LL.B (Hons)
- Physics

Variety of Master's programs, such as

- Master of Science in Applied Economics (MSAE)
- Master of Arts (MA) in English
- Master of Development Studies (MDS)
- Master of Science in Biotechnology (MS in Biotech)
- Master in Disaster Management (MDM)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master in Bank Management (MBM)
- Master in Public Health (MPH)
- Master of Arts in Governance and Development (MAGD)
- Master in Early Childhood Development (ECD)
- Master of Education (MEd)

Currently there are five academic departments, three schools, three institutes and one center operating within the framework of BRACU. These are:

1. Department of Architecture (ARC)
2. Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)
3. Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS)
4. Department of English and Humanities (ENH)
5. Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS)

6. BRAC Business School (BBS)
7. BRAC Development Institute (BDI)
8. Institute of Educational Development (IED)
9. Institute of Governance Studies (IGS)
10. James P. Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH)
11. School of Law (SoL)
12. The Centre for Languages (CfL)

The total number of students at BRACU as on December 31, 2008 was 1892 in undergraduate programs and 494 in post graduate programs. BRACU also offers Certificate and Diploma programs such as CISCO.

Following was the break down of last year's students by programs:

Number of students in each discipline as of December 2008

Undergraduate programs

ARC	310
BBA	1582
CSE and CS	618
ECE	571
ECO	184
ENG	205
LLB	155
PHY	17
Total	3642

Postgraduate programs

MBA	603
MDS	107
MPH	57
MAGD	7
MS in Biotechnology	32
MA in English	36
DMS	50
MSAE	14
Total	906
Grand Total	4548

Partners in Education

Over the years BRAC University has partnered with the following reputed academic institutions around the world to enhance our own educational experience by learning from others.

Institute of Governance Studies

- Korea Development Institute School of Public Policy and Management, Seoul, Korea
- Monash University, Australia
- Griffith University, Australia
- University of Manitoba, Canada
- Basel Institute of Governance, Basel University, Switzerland
- George Mason University, USA

Institute of Educational Development

- George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA
- National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi
- University of Sussex, UK
- Columbia University, New York, USA
- Aga Khan Foundation, Canada
- Open Society Institute - London

James P. Grant School of Public Health

- Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard University, USA
- Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, USA
- George Washington University, USA
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
- Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, USA
- Karolin Institute, Sweden
- University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- ICCDR, Bangladesh

BRAC Business School

- Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok
- Asian Institute of Management, Manila
- University of South Australia

Department of Architecture

- University of Illinois, Chicago, USA

Post Graduate Programs in Disaster Management

- Northumbria University, UK
- Katmandu University, Nepal
- Kyoto University, Japan
- Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Thailand
- Asian University Network of Environment and Disaster Management (AUEDM)

BRAC Development Institute

- University of Manchester
- Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University

DEPARTMENTS

Department of Architecture (ARC)

ANGAN LECTURES

➤ **Angan Lecture by Professor Peter Rowe**
Peter Rowe, Professor and formerly Dean of the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University visited the Department of Architecture and gave a lecture, the 51st in the Angan lecture series. His lecture was titled East Asia Modern: Urban Forms, Local Experiences and Shaping the Space of Time, largely based on his research work in China, Italy and the USA. Professor Rowe is the author many well-known books on urban design and has researched extensively on the topic. He was accompanied by his wife Lauretta Vinciarelli who was formerly a professor of architecture at Columbia University. She is also a very well known artist with works in the permanent collection of the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC and the Museum of Modern Art in New York amongst others.

➤ **'Experience the Cloud'**
Angan Travel Sketch: 'Experience the Cloud' was held on January 29, 2008. It was an informal experience sharing session on the trip to Shillong and Cherapunji in Meghalaya, India by Dr. Fuad H Mallick, Dr Zainab F Ali, Huraera Jabeen, Hasibul Kabir, Imon Chowdhoree and Nafisur Rahman, all faculties of the Department of Architecture. It was a lively event attended by students and teachers.

➤ **52nd Angan Lecture**
Architect Abu Saleh (Lenin) discussed his experience in 52nd Angan lecture: 'Doing things right: Project management in the US' on 11th March 2008. He has been working as an architect/project manager at the Ohio State University managing the design and construction of a range of projects. He has also worked in the US as a practicing architect and as

an owner's representative in managing projects dealing with multitude of scale and complexity.

➤ **Angan Lecture Series**

ANGAN the forum for co curricular activities of the Department of Architecture, arranged three lectures in July'08.

The first one was about art. Sumona Hasan, daughter of renowned Artist Quamrul Hassan, presented some works from the private collection of the artist. She was very close to her father and mentioned many memorable incidents from her father's life. The lecture was held on 15th of July.



DwM4, a leading architectural firm in Dhaka, presented their past and present works in a houseful and crowded lecture room the following week on 22nd July. Mahmudul Anwar Riyaad and Mamnoon Murshed Chowdhury, the principals of the firm, delivered a very live and attractive presentation. Both of them are part time faculty members of the department.

On 29th July, Architect Habib Chaudhury, Associate Professor in the Department of Gerontology at Simon Fraser University, Canada, also gave a lecture. His presentation was on Health, Aging and Environment. He emphasized on aged people, their physical problem and their relationship with the built environment. The lecture was very resourceful and particularly useful to students working on health issues in architecture.

➤ **ANGAN Travel Sketch**

Huraera Jabeen, Senior Lecturer, Department of Architecture discussed her experience in

ANGAN, the forum for co curricular activities after rejoining the department after the exchange visit in Development Planning Unit (DPU) of University College London. It was about her research 'Adaptation to Climate Change in Cities' funded under the British Council Higher Education Link Program. The lecture held on 16th of September titled as ITCHY FEET in the banner of ANGAN Travel Sketch. She also shared her visit and observation to different institutes in UK and USA including King's College London, IIED, MIT and Columbia University.

➤ **Angan Travel Sketch and Angan Lectures**

There were three Angan lectures in October. One of them was student Lecture. Two 4th year student of Dept. of Architecture went to United States on the program "Study of the United States Institute of Student Leaders" in the semester Summer 2008. One of them, Mr. Ashique-Uz-Zaman went to Green River Community College in Washington and the other one, Ms. Suhaily Farzana went to the University of Vermont in Vermont. They made a informative presentation on their experience and learning from there in the Angan Student lecture. The lecture held on 14th October, 2008.

On next Tuesday, October 21, 2008, Department Chair Dr. Fuad H Mallick discussed and shared his experiences in Northern Cyprus in Angan Travel Sketch. He lived and worked there for two years before joining BRAC University.

Last Angan lecture of the month held on 28th October. Ar. Patric D' Rozario, Ar. Selim Altaf Biplob and Ar. Tamanna Sayeed from "Synthesis Architects" presented their Architectural projects in Dhaka and also in some other districts. The lecture was followed by a lively discussion.

➤ **Angan Lecture**

Ar. Jimmy Lim from Malaysia was in Bangladesh in November and delivered an ANGAN lecture at the Department of Architecture on the 23rd. He is the Principal of

"Jimmy Lim Architect", a leading architectural firm in Malaysia and a winner of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture He presented his architectural projects and also shared his philosophy and experiences with the audience.

FACULTY NEWS

➤ **Faculty Presents Paper in Conference**

Imon Chowdhoree, Lecturer, Department of Architecture presented a paper titled "Present Morphological Trends of Hindu Temples of Bangladesh: Study of Some Selected Cases of Sylhet" in the '4th International Seminar on Vernacular Settlement'. The conference, hosted by Faculty of Architecture, CEPT University, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad, India was held from 14th to 17th February 2008. The keynote address was by Dr. Hassan-Uddin Khan. The paper was highly appreciated by the present audiences and critiques. He also attended the post conference tour at Ahmedabad and met the famous Indian Architect Balkrishna V. Doshi.

➤ **Faculty delivers lecture at Cornell University**

Dr. Q M Mahtab-uz-Zaman, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture and Fulbright Research Fellow at College of Architecture, Art & Planning (Cornell University), has delivered a lecture "Globalization, Urban Auditing and Search for Sustainable Dhaka" at the South Asia Program of Cornell University on 10th March, 2008.

➤ **Faculty leaves for higher studies**

Tariq Mahub Khan, Senior Lecturer left for pursuing his PhD studies in the Urban Design Lab of the Department of Urban Engineering, University of Tokyo. He will be researching urban renewal and conservation under Professor Yukio Nishimura. He received the Monbukagakusho Scholarship 2008 to fund his research work.

➤ **Professor Mallick Attends Workshops in Japan**

Professor Fuad Mallick attended a three International Workshop on Indigenous



Knowledge and Disaster Risk Reduction: From Practice to Policy at the Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto, Japan from 23-25 July and the first workshop of the Asian University Network of Environment and Disaster Management from 28-29 July 2008 also held at Kyoto University. He presented the work of the Post Graduate Programs of Disaster Management of BRAC University to 24 professionals and academics from 13 countries. BRAC University is now a part of the Network, which intends to promote Disaster Management education in Asia.

➤ **Imon Chowdhoree awarded a Scholarship**

Mr. Imon Chowdhoree, Lecturer of the Dept. of Architecture has been awarded for the Master Course in Urban Management and Development-5 (UMD-5) starting at the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, Rotterdam, the Netherlands on Wednesday 8th October, 2008, until Friday 25th September, 2009. He has been awarded a fellowship from the Netherlands Government. The Netherlands Fellowship Programs (NFP) are demand oriented fellowship programs designed to foster institutional development.

Imon Chowdhoree, Lecturer has been selected as a recipient of the 2008-2009 Asian Development Bank-Government of Japan Scholarship Program (ADB) for studies leading to a Master's Degree in Urban & Regional Planning at the University of Hawaii at Manoa beginning in August 2008. He will also participate in the Education Program designed

to foster intellectual and cultural interaction at the East-West Center (EWC). Beyond fulfilling degree requirements at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, ADB fellows participate in the EWC community and its programs.

Imon has also been selected as a recipient of the VLIR-UOS scholarship program to study Master of Human Settlement at Katholieke University Leuven, Belgium starting from September 2008. He has decided to study at the University of Hawaii.

➤ **Lecture by Professor Fuad H Mallick**

Professor Fuad Mallick, Chairperson delivered a lecture in the Institute of Architects Lecture series titled "Architectural Education in Bangladesh: Context for a Future" at the Chayyanaut Auditorium in Dhanmondi on 25th July, 2008. He spoke about the situation of architectural education the country and the issues that are of concern and need to be addressed. The lecture was followed by a discussion by the audience.

➤ **Exchange Visit by Faculty**

Huraera Jabeen, Senior Lecturer, Department of Architecture rejoined after the exchange visit in Development Planning Unit (DPU) of University College London in connection to her research 'Adaptation to Climate Change in Cities' funded under the British Council Higher Education Link Program. She worked with Dr Cassidy Johnson and Adriana Alan in DPU for 6 weeks in developing the research work and resources. Also she met several key persons of different institutes in UK and USA including King's College London, IIED, MIT and Columbia University for discussing research issues and developing future networks.

➤ **Faculty receives Institute of Architects Bangladesh Award**

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, lecturer II, Department of Architecture, received the third prize [jointly] in the design competition, "Design of Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) Centre". He was part of a design team with architects Tamanna Sayeed, Faysal Kabir

and Nuruzzaman. The prize was awarded on 22 May, 2008 by the honorable advisor Ministry of Housing and Public Works and the president of IAB.

Abul Quasem Md. Abdullah, former Lecturer and Mohammed Emran Hossain, former Teaching Assistant, Department of Architecture, received juror's "special mention" award in the design competition.

➤ **Prof. Fuad H. Mallick attends Asia NGO Consultative Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction**

Prof. Fuad Mallick, Director Post Graduate Program in Disaster Management attended the Asia NGO Consultative Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Bangkok on 27th and 28th May, 2008.

The consultations brought together development, civil society and non-governmental organizations from Asia to examine challenges to disaster risk reduction and potential for collaboration among regional stakeholders. The meeting covered four main themes: 1) Emerging disaster issues in Asia; 2). Urban risks in Asia; 3). Climate Change, extreme events, conflict and migration (with a special focus on environmental migration in Asia); 4). Cross cutting solutions - Training and learning concepts on DRR.

➤ **Golam Sarwar Awarded a Scholarship**

Mr. Golam Sarwar, lecturer, has been offered a Research Assistant post for the 2008-09 academic year in the National Institute of Advanced Transportation Technology (NIATT), Idaho, USA. This is a full-time research assistant position which allows him to pursue his Masters degree in transportation engineering.

➤ **Professor Fuad H Mallick Attends Workshop in Istanbul**

A paper titled "Confronting Poverty in the Urban Built Environment" jointly authored by Prof. Fuad Mallick and Yasmin Ara, Lecturer, Department of Architecture was presented by Prof. Mallick at a workshop on, Cities:

Understanding Socio-cultural Transformations Workshop held in Istanbul on 15-16th October, 2008. The workshop was organised by The Aga Khan University and Istanbul Bigli University.

➤ **Prof. Fuad H. Mallick attended the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Kuala Lumpur**

Prof. Fuad H. Mallick, Director of the Post Graduate Programs in Disaster Management, attended the 3rd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia held 30 November- 3rd December. He chaired a session Climate Change and Urban Disaster Risk Reduction, presented the project work of the Program in Noakhali and was a panelist in session on Indigenous Knowledge in Disaster Risk Reduction.

➤ **New Faculty**

Three new faculty members joined the Department. Ms. Sheikh Rubaiya Sultana joined as Senior Lecturer. She did her MSc in Urban Planning from the University of Hong Kong in 2006. Her dissertation 'Social sustainability and quality of community space in the high-rise apartment buildings of Dhaka city' has been awarded the best dissertation award from Hong Kong Institute of Planners. She had been teaching at the Architecture Discipline in Khulna University for the last 6 years.

Ms. Sarah Nasreen Shuchi joined as lecturer after completing her MSc in Advanced Environmental and Energy Studies jointly offered by University of East London and Center for Alternative Technology in UK. She did her dissertation on wind flow pattern in urban building passage. After her graduation from BUET she had been working as architectural assistant in Hobbs Construction and Design Ltd. UK for more than three years.

Md. Shajjad Hossain also joined as lecturer. He completed his Bachelor of Architecture from BUET in 2007. His final year thesis was on reducing solar heat gain in tall office building in the context of Dhaka.

Mr. Sayem Khan has joined the department as a lecturer. He is a graduate of Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, US. His Masters thesis focused on a search for a new urban boundary for the Metropolitan area of Boston. The final product was a new form of gateway into the city which would also serve as a Technopolis to create a population density at the outer edge of the city. In January 2008, he received an honorable mention for a post disaster housing design competition for New York City. Mr. Khan completed his B. S. in Architecture from the same university in 2005. From 2006 -2008, he worked for Scott Payette Architects in Boston on a Television Studio project.

STUDENT NEWS

➤ **Students visit garments factory**

Ready made garments are a prime export oriented product in our country, and efficient building design for garment industry is very important to compete in the world market. Considering these issues, the 5th year students of the Department of Architecture were given a project to design a factory building for garments at Savar.

For a thorough understanding of the process which begins from fabric and ends up with a finished garment like trousers, t-shirts, etc. On 20th May students along with their course teachers made a study tour of Maxcom International BD Ltd., located in Savar. The visit was successful in terms of the information and experience gathered on the process of manufacturing, work environment, physical facilities, program and management of a large and busy garments factory.

➤ **Students visit Shahid Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium**

Third year students and teachers visited Shahid Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium at Mirpur on 27th May, 2008, This was considered as a case study for their design assignment, an indoor stadium. The main objective was to gain knowledge on designing an indoor stadium considering its

function, structure and form. Shahid Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium of is one of the best examples of its kind in the country.

➤ **Student Wins Art Competition**

Ms. Hosnee Reza Choudhury, a senior student of architecture won the 'Excellence Award' in the 'Asia Pacific Youth Art Competition 2006'. The 10,000 participants aged 20-30 submitted 28,000 entries in the competition. She received a gold medal, certificate along with a 10 days trip to Bangkok.

➤ **Student Participation in International Architectural Event**

Mr. Kafi Newaz Khan student of Department of Architecture, BRAC University attend the Architectural event "ZoNASA" at Jadavpur University, Kolkata. It was a three day event program held on 17th, 18th, 19th of October, 2008 which comprised of events ranged from seminars, design competition, model-making, quizzes, debates, interactive sessions and cultural programs. Teachers and student participants from different countries made the event lively and successful.

➤ **Student Volunteers Visit "Kishori Club"**

Ms. Dilshad Samina and Ms. Nazia Roushan, students of Freshmen-1 from Department of Architecture went to Dhamrai on 12th Novemder to visit a club of SOFEA (Social and Financial Empowerment o Adolescents) a new program scheme formed by the Education Program of BRAC. The club members, mostly school students shared their thoughts with the visitors, and performed a dance and a song for them.

➤ **Open House of Freshmen 1**

Open house of the Freshmen I was arranged on 16th March, 2008. The chairperson along with senior faculty members had an introductory session for the parents explaining the course curricula, activities and the student life in the department. The parents had a guided visit to other studios, talked to the senior students and took great interest in the design works going on in the studios.

➤ **Interns from Department of Architecture**

To fulfill the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Architecture in BRAC University, students who have completed the fourth year of their program need to work as architectural trainees in some esteemed architectural firms located either in Bangladesh or abroad. The objective of the internship is mainly to gain knowledge of the professional practice. As requirements for ARC 300: Practical Training, the following students completed their internship during the period from May 18, 2008 to 14th august, 2008.

HOSNEE REZA (03108011)
Architect Satprem Maini
Auroville Earth Institute
Auroshilpham, Auroville 605 101-T.N. India

ANIKA TASNIM (03208007)
Architect Uttam Kumar Shaha
Nandan Architects
10-21, Priyopangan Tower
Banani, Dhaka

A S M SHAHRIAR (04108005)
Architect Bashirul Haq
Bashirul Haq & Associates ltd
35b/2, Indira Road, Dhaka-1215

SYEDA NUSRAT JAHAN (04108012)
Architect Satprem Maini
Auroville Earth Institute
Auroshilpham, auroville 605 101-T.N.
India

TASNEEM MOSTOFA (04108015)
Architect Tanya Karim
Tanya karim & NR Khan Associate
C1, House 35, Road 15
Dhanmondi

DALOUR HOSSAIN (04108020)
B K S Inan
CAD limited
Road-44, Gulshan-2, Dhaka

FARHANA KABIR (04208003)
Jimmy Lim Design
Architects, Imagineers, Conceptioners
8 Jalan Scott, Brickfields
50470 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

TASNEEM BINTE ISLAM (04208007)
Architect Mohammad Foyes Ullah
Vistara Architects
D-1, SE(H) 6, Road 143, Gushan-1, Dhaka

AYESHA MATIN MILI (04208008)
Jimmy Lim Design
Architects, Imagineers, Conceptioners
8 Jalan Scott, Brickfields
50470 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

REZWAN KHURSHID (04308002)
Architect Marina Tabassum
MARINA TABASSUM Architects
House 13/a, Road 3, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205

NAYMA NAWSHIN (04308004)
Architect Rajeev Kathpalia
VASTU SHILPA Consultants
"Sangath", Thaltej Road,
Ahmedabad-380058, Gujrat, India.

SAIMA SHARMIN NIPA (04308008)
Architect Rajeev Kathpalia
VASTU SHILPA Consultants
"Sangath", Thaltej Road,
Ahmedabad-380058, Gujrat, India.

BASHIRUL MUGHNI (04308010)
WOHA
29, Hong Kong street, Singapore-059668

ADRITA ANWAR (04108014)
Architect Uttam Kumar Shaha
Nanda Architects
10-21, Priyopangan Tower, Banani, Dhaka

GAZI MD. FAZLE RAHIM (04108017)
Architect Mohammad Foyes Ullah
Vistara Architects
D-1, SE(H) 6, Road 143, Gushan-1,
Dhaka-1212
Tel: +880-2-9894909

STUDY TRIPS

➤ **Study Trip to National Assembly Building**

The students of 1st year second semester and final year 2nd semester visited the National Assembly Building on 24th of July accompanied by the teachers Sarah N Shuchi and Mr. Muhammad Nafisur Rahman. During

their trip they have gathered knowledge about the architectural philosophy of Louis I Kahn in exploiting the natural lighting and climate responsive design of the building. They have gained a good knowledge about the master plan of the Assembly building and understand the multilayer admitting light through geometric cutouts in solid. At the end of the trip they submitted sketches of the building and the spaces.

➤ **“Otha Bolbo” Rural Architecture Field Study**

Students of the course, Rural Architecture, went to Jaflong, from 11-12 July 2008, to study and document indigenous architecture of Khashi community. They visited two settlements and documented one in detail, which includes settlement patterns, homestead patterns and construction techniques and space use pattern of houses. Course teacher Mr. Khondaker Hasibul Kabir guided the study visit. After coming back students submitted an assignment on the study.

➤ **Landscape Design Field Study**

As part of Landscape Design course, students visited Bhawal National Park, on 18 July 2008, to experience and study woodland landscape. They documented their experiences in through sketches and photography which would be used in their landscape design projects in the class. Students also visited two ongoing landscape projects (in Masterbari and in Pubail) in Gazipur to see human-nature relationship in reality. These projects also helped students to understand the relationship between landscape theory and practice. Course teachers Mr. Khondaker Hasibul Kabir and Mr. Muhammad Nafisur Rahman guided the field study.

➤ **Bandarban**

As part of Rural Architecture course, students and teachers went to Bandarban to study and document different architectural features of "pahari" communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts from 6th to 9th March, 2008. They stayed in a village of Bawm community in Bogalake. They documented a Marma community named

Bogalake Marmapara. The documentation covered the settlement pattern, indoor and outdoor spaces of a homestead, measured drawing of one house, building materials, building techniques and construction tools they use.

➤ **Tetulia, Panchagarh**

The Sophomore I students, Department of Architecture, had been on a two day study trip from 13th to 15th March. The objective of the trip was twofold: to study design considerations for a highway bus stop and also to have an experience of a sustainable environment. They studied several highway bus stops and guesthouses on their way. The ultimate destination was an organic farm and tea estate at Tetulia, Panchagarh. There they had the opportunity to learn the significance of sustainable lifestyle and embraced the inspiration of living pure life through pure and healthy food. Three faculty members accompanied the students.

➤ **Cox's Bazar**

Students of Junior I went to Cox's bazar for development of their terminal project of spring semester. They visited the site for designing a seaside resort in Himchori, Cox's Bazar. As part of the assignment, they spent a day to design a hilltop resting place considering the on site facilities and also presented the design to others. Studio teachers Mr. B K S Inan and Mr. Rahat M Niaz accompanied them during the study trip from 14th to 16th April, 2008.

➤ **Narayanganj**

As part of the Housing and Development class activities, the Senior I students went to Narayanganj on 29th March to visit the project areas of Urban Partnership Poverty Reduction Project (UPPR) funded by DfiD and implemented by UNDP. The students were accompanied by Mr. Mike Slingsby, the Project Manager along with their tutor Ms. Huraera Jabeen. They visited two sites in Rishipara and Kumudini trust area, had elaborate discussion with the communities about their achievements related to poverty reduction. Also they tried to

generate ideas from the communities about how to address housing in the future for them.

➤ **Study Trip to Mymensingh**

The students of 5th semester of architecture department, set off for the Bangladesh Agriculture University at Mymensingh accompanied by course teachers, Mr. Rahat M Niaz and Mr. Muhammad Nafisur Rahman, as part of their study trip. Students studied various academic buildings and master plans designed by the renowned international architect Paul Rudolph. The students also experienced the Brahmaputra river adjacent to the campus. They also visited the Zainul Abedin Museum.

➤ **'Housing & Development' Field Study**

As part of 'ARC432: Housing & Development' course, students went to Narayanganj on 2nd August 2008, to visit the project areas of Urban Partnership Poverty Reduction Project (UPPRP) funded by DFID and implemented by UNDP. The major objective of this tour was to learn the importance of community participation in the development activities, particularly in design and delivery process of housing. The students were divided into three groups and visited three sites at Muchipara, Kumudini Dhanbad Garden and West Khalpar area. The students observed the way support is being extended for socio-economic development and settlement improvement of these communities. They had elaborate discussion with the people about their achievements so far and tried to generate ideas from the communities about how to address housing in future for them. The students were accompanied by Mr. Mike Slingsby, the Project Manager of UPPRP, course teacher Ms. Yasmin Ara and faculty members Mr. Khondaker Hasibul Kabir and Mr. Sayem Khan.

➤ **Study Tour to Panam Nagar**

Students of ARC101 went to Panam Nagar on November 11, 2008. They were required to do free hand sketching as part of their project for design studio. The respective course teachers accompanied them on the trip.

WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

➤ **Workshop on 'Building Safer Houses in SIDR Affected Areas in Bangladesh'**

BRAC in association with the Department of Architecture, BRAC University organized a three-day participatory workshop on "Building Safer Houses in SIDR Affected Areas in Bangladesh" from 16 to 18 February, 2008 in AH 904. Participants were local builders from three different districts. Designing appropriate house and developing building-for-safety options in a cost-effective way were the main outcomes of the workshop which will be implemented soon in the affected area by BRAC. The workshop was facilitated by teachers and students of the Department of Architecture.

➤ **Participation in the UK-South Asia Young Scientists and Practitioners Seminar on Climate Change and Disaster Impact Reduction**

Disaster and Development Centre (DDC), Northumbria University, UK organized the UK-South Asia Young Scientists and Practitioners Seminar on Climate Change and Disaster Impact Reduction on 05-06 June, 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Climatic disaster risk reduction scientists and practitioners from Bangladesh, Brazil, Turkey, Nepal, India, Japan, Costa Rica and the United Kingdom presented papers on different themes. Professor Fuad H Mallick, Director, PPDM, Mohammad Aminur Rahman, Research Assistant, PPDM and Ms. Tahmina Rahman, Student, PPDM attended the seminar from BRAC University and presented individual papers. In the first day's special session, Professor Fuad presented his paper titled "Climate Change and Disaster Management Education: Issues Arising". Mohammad Aminur Rahman spoke about climate change and its tentative impacts on Dhaka city while Tahmina Rahman focussed on climate change and related issues considering the fishing community of Dublar Char, the Sundarbans. This event was organized as part of the DelpHE project which is funded and

supported by DFID and the British Council. PPDM of BRAC University is the Bangladesh counterpart of this project.

➤ **Students and faculty attended the ARCASIA 2008 in Busan, Korea**

Ms. Adiba Rahman, Ms. Mir Nabila Ali and Mr. Tarek Mohammad Saidul Islam, students and Mr. Rahat M. Niaz, lecturer from the Department of Architecture attended the 13th ARCASIA Conference held in Busan, Korea from 29th October to 1st November. Among the students Ms. Adiba Abdur Rahman was selected as one of the official delegates to the ARCASIA Council from Bangladesh. The students attended the ARCASIA Conference which included a student's jamboree consisting of seminars, workshops, competitions, visits and cultural programs.

➤ **Seminar on The Aga Khan Award for Architecture**

The Department of Architecture along with the Aga Khan Council Bangladesh organized a seminar on 'The Aga Khan Award for Architecture 2007' held in BCFCC, Dhaka on 17th November to present the winning projects of the Award's 2007 cycle to the professional community and architectural students in Bangladesh, and to celebrate the METI School in Rudrapur, Dinajpur which was one of the winners. The seminar program was divided into three thematic sessions that brought together the nine projects that received the 2007 Award. Each session began with video, followed by panel discussions of the projects. An exhibition on the 2007 Aga Khan Awards was on display at the seminar venue.

The seminar began with a welcome address by Mr. Farrokh Derakhshani, Director, Aga Khan Award for Architecture followed by an address by the Special Guest, Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University and an address by the Chief Guest Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, the Honorable Advisor to the Ministry of Commerce and Education. The award certificates were presented to the architects and the client, Dipshikha, the NGO which runs the METI school.

Dr. Zainab Faruqui Ali, Professor, Department of Architecture was one of the discussants in the first session which was about Designing Local Contemporaneity. Professor Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson, Department of Architecture moderated the second session in which the main theme was Innovation and Intervention in the Public Sphere. The topic of the third session was Boundaries -- Physical, Psychological and Conceptual. The seminar participants included architects and academics from Bangladesh. International participants included Ms. Anna Heringer from Austria, Mr. Eike Roswag from Germany, Architect Jimmy C.S. Lim from Malaysia, Prof. Modjtaba Sadria from the Aga Khan University, UK, and Architect Romi Khosla from India. The seminar ended with a vote of thanks by Architect Mobassher Hossain, President, Institute of Architects Bangladesh, and Mr. Habib Hirji, President, Aga Khan Council.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

➤ Visit by faculty of National University of Singapore

Prof. Wong Yunn Chii, Head, Department of Architecture, School of Design and Environment of National University of Singapore (NUS) visited the department on 25th February. Prof Wong along with Dr. Mizanur Rashid, a research associate from NUS made a presentation about their department, various study programs and areas of research with an intention to explore various modes of collaboration and intake of graduate students. The senior level students and faculty members of Department of Architecture attended the session.

➤ Exhibition of Research Documents

An exhibition 'Exploring Extreme New Urbanism in Asia' has been organized in the Olive Tjaden Gallery of Cornell University in USA from January 28 to February 01, 2008. The exhibits were the research documentations of Dr. Quazi M Mahtab-uz-Zaman, Associate Professor of Department of Architecture and now a Fulbright Visiting Fellow in the College of Architecture, Art and Planning, Cornell University. They showed the extreme innovative architectural analysis in Asia, that symbolically demonstrate the possibility of Extreme New Urbanism, and an alternative to the conventional notion of making/re-making cities in Asia.

➤ AA School Students Organize Exhibition

As a continuation of the visit by students of AA school from London, an exhibition was held at the AA to 'report' back from their trip to Bangladesh and raise awareness of Cyclone Sidr and its affects. It was a great success, with representatives from the architectural community and Bangladeshi community in London visiting. The Deputy Mayor of Camden Borough has invited them to hold another exhibition in their council to relay their experience back to Bangladeshis living in London.

➤ Lecture by Khairul Anam Shakeel

As a part of ARC293:Music Appreciation course, there was a demonstration lecture on 'Nazrul Geeti' by renowned artist Khairul Anam Shakeel on Monday 23 June, 2008 at CB 902 at 5pm. He rendered various types of songs. Students and the audience experienced Nazruls's unique styles blended with the traditional fusions. He is also attached with Chayanaut, one of the most traditional schools of music in Bangladesh. It turned into a wonderful musical evening when he rendered some songs from the audience requests.

➤ Lectures and Demonstrations on Dance

A demonstration lecture by Shibli Muhammed on Katthak Dance was held on 25th November. This demonstration lecture was to inspire and provide knowledge to students of ARC101 for their final project based on Dance. A demonstration lecture by Tamanna rahman on Monipuri Dance was held on 26th November.

Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)

CONFERENCES

➤ World Congress on Science, Engineering and Technology (WCSET)

Dr. A. K. M. Abdul Malek Azad, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), attended a three-day long International conference on Computer, Electrical, and Systems Science, and Engineering, organized by World Congress on Science, Engineering and Technology (WCSET) on August 30-September 01, 2008 in Singapore. He was invited to serve as the Session Chair as well as to present his paper "Delay Analysis of Sample-Data Systems in Hard RTOS" at the conference site in Singapore.

PUBLICATIONS

- Salam, M. S., "Emission Constrained Hydrothermal Scheduling Algorithm", International Journal of Mathematical,

Physical and Engineering Sciences, Spring 2008, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 63-67.

- Salam, M. S., “Emission Constrained Economic Dispatch for Hydrothermal Coordination”, World Congress on Science, Engineering and Technology (WCSET 2008), Bangkok, Thailand, 17-19 December 2008, pp. 683-686.

LECTURES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, ETC.

➤ **Workshop on “Wi-Max Bangladesh: Now and Future”**

Two faculty members Ms. Sadia Hamid Kazi and Mr. Syed Saiful Islam of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) attended the two-day long workshop on “Wi-Max Bangladesh: Now and Future” on 12-13 May, 2008, Organized by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulation Commission (BTRC) in Radisson Water Garden Hotel. Brigadier General M. A. Malek (Retd.), Special Assistant (responsible for the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication) to The Chief Advisor of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest of workshop that was presided over by Major General Manzurul Alam, ndc, psc (Retd.), Chairman, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulation Commission (BTRC). Renowned scientist Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal was also present as a Special Guest at the event.

In the workshop Alcatel-Lucent, Cisco, Huawei, Intel, Motorola, Nokia Siemens Network arranged presentations on Wi-Max. Speakers from ISPAB, ATOB and BTOA also presented their talks. After each session, lively panel discussion and Q&A Session was arranged.

➤ **Seminar on “Prospects of WI-MAX and 3G in Bangladesh”**

A seminar titled “Prospects of Wi-MAX and 3G in Bangladesh” was held at BRAC University on the 19th October, 2008, organized by the IEEE Student Branch at BRAC University. The main speaker at the seminar was Mohammad Refaul Karim, Assistant Manager in the department of Transmission Planning of Banglalink (Orascom

Telecom Bangladesh Ltd). Prior to working in Banglalink, he had also worked in Grameen Phone Ltd. as a System Engineer and at BRAC University as a Lecturer.

Mr. Karim, in his speech, explained in details on how Wi-MAX and 3G networks are set up and the obstacles faced in doing so. He also talked about the impacts these two new wireless broadband technologies are likely to bring about in the ICT Sector of Bangladesh.

After the interactive seminar, the students, many of who are budding engineers, got the opportunity to talk in person with Mr. Karim about different technical and career related issues.

➤ **Lecture on “Quality and Project Management Skills for a Successful Career”**

Mr. Muhammad Faysal Islam, Senior Quality Assurance Engineer and Project Coordinator for Axispoint Inc. (<http://www.axispoint.com>) gave a talk on “Quality and Project Management Skills for a Successful Career” on Wednesday, 22nd October 2008 at BRAC University.

Axispoint Inc. is an information technology company in New York City, USA. Axispoint develops content management, telecommunication and large scale electronic data processing tools in partnership with Cisco and IBM, grossing over \$38 million in revenue for fiscal year 2007. Prior to joining Axispoint, Mr. Islam worked for Bank of America, Scholastic Corporation and eBay Inc. Mr. Islam received his BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering from West Virginia University, MS in Electrical Engineering from University of South Alabama and Post-Graduate Professional Certificate in Project Management from New York University. He was awarded Ambassador Scholarship in 1999 to study in the US as an undergraduate student. As a graduate research assistant Mr. Islam worked on US government funded research projects for Hyper-spectral object recognition and biometric identification. He has presented his research in IEEE

conferences in Orlando, FL and San Diego, CA and published three proceedings with IEEE and SPIE (Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers). Mr. Islam received “University Honor” for completing his MS with the highest possible GPA (4.00/4.00). Mr. Islam is a member of IEEE USA and engineering honor society Tau Beta Pi. He served as the general secretary for IEEE West Virginia chapter for the year of 2002-03. He is also an active member of Project Management Institute (PMI) and American Management Association New York chapter.

About 50 participants including the students from BRAC University and outside, faculty members including Dr. Sayeed Salam, Chairman, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Mr. Syed Saiful Islam, Mr. Farazul Haque Bhuiyan, Mr. Md. Omar Faruque, Mr. Nazmus Saquib, and Mr. Apurba Saha attended the event. The lecture emphasized on Project Management, Quality Assurance, and Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC). Some real life project examples were shown as well.

➤ **Biomedical Engineering workshop on AUST**

IEEE Bangladesh Section in association with Biomedical Engineering Centre, BUET and IEEE AUST Student Branch organized a workshop on “Biomedical Signal Measurement and Interpretation” on 31st December, 2008, at the AUST campus. The workshop was coordinated by Professor M. Aynal Haque, Chair, IEEE Bangladesh Section. In his introductory talk, Professor Aynal talked about the role of engineers in the interdisciplinary field of Biomedical engineering and highlighted the current situation and lacking of BME Education in Bangladesh. Dr. Shamima Parvin Lasker, Professor of Anatomy, City Dental College, Dhaka, presented a talk on “Cardiac autonomic neuropathy: Possibility of development of myocardial disarray in diabetes progression link to heart failure”. Dr. M. Atahar Ali, Associate Professor (Cardiology), NICVD, Dhaka gave a talk on “Basic Electrophysiology”, while

Engineer Hafizur Rahman Khan presented a talk titled “CT Evolution Inside the Human”. IEEE student members from different universities including AUST, BRACU, BUET and IUT attended the workshop.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

➤ **Accreditation Team Visit from Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB)**

IEB (Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh) accreditation team comprising of Professor M. M. Shahidul Hasan, Professor Anisul Haque, Dr. Shah Alam and Engr. Rabiul Alam visited the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at BRAC University on 13th, 14th and 18th August, 2008 for the Electronic and Communication Engineering (ECE) program accreditation. BRAC University is the first among the private universities to get this accreditation for the ECE Program offered by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

FACULTY NEWS

Promotions

- The following faculty members from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) achieved the following promotions:

Name of the Faculty	New Designation
Dr. Sayeed Salam	Professor
Dr. Mumit Khan	Professor
Dr. A. K. M. Abdul Malek Azad	Asso. Prof.
Ms. Bushra Tawfiq Chowdhury	Sr. Lecturer

New Appointments

- Mr. Tarem Ahmed has re-joined the Department of Computer Science and Engineering as a Senior Lecturer in 2008. Mr. Ahmed's fields of expertise are telecommunication, networking and digital design. His research and academic experiences include research experience at McGill University in Canada after a

previous stint as Lecturer at BRAC University, industrial experience in the USA, and a Master's in Electrical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania, USA.

- Mr. Ahmedul Kabir, Mr. Farazul Haque Bhuiyan, Ms. Marjia Alam, Mr. Md. Omar Faruque, and Mr. Nazmus Saquib joined the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, BRAC University as Lecturers in 2008.
- Mr. Apurba Saha joined the CSE Department as an Instructor in 2008.

Faculties Departed for Higher Studies

- The faculty members of the Department of Computer Science, Mr. Risat Mahmud Pathan, Ms. Farzana Rashid, Mr. Md. Imrul Hossain, Ms. Rezwana Karim, Mr. Abu Mohammad Hammad Ali and Ms. Anita Quadir left BRAC University in 2008 to pursue higher education.

Center for Research on Bangla Language Processing (CRBLP)

The Center for Research on Bangla Language Processing, (CRBLP) of BRAC University has been working on Bangla Language Processing since 2004. This center is supported in part by grants from the PAN Localization Project (PanL10n) of the International Development Research Corporation (IDRC), Canada, and the Microsoft Corporation, USA. The CRBLP research team has been working on Bangla Document Authoring, Information Retrieval (Spell Checker, Search Engine), Optical Character Recognition, Speech Processing

(Speech Synthesis, Speech Recognition), Pronunciation Generator, Morphological Analysis, Parts of Speech Tagging, Computational Syntax, Grammar Checker, Text Categorization, Language Modeling and related research areas. All of their software is released under an open source license. Please visit the website for details

<http://www.bracu.ac.bd/research/crblp/index.php>.

Publications from CRBLP

CRBLP team members were actively involved in research and published 3 papers in international journals/conference proceedings. The papers are given below:

- Naira Khan, “Bangladesh: the documentation of minority languages”, Focus, an online publication of European Academy Bozen/Bolzano (EURAC), 19 Feb, 2009.
- Altaf Mahmud, Kazi Zubair Ahmed and Mumit Khan, “Detecting flames and insults in text”, Proceedings of 6th International Conference on Natural Language Processing (ICON-2008), CDAC Pune, India, December 20 - 22, 2008.
- Farhana Faruque and Mumit Khan. “BWN - A Software Platform for Developing Bengali WordNet”, International Joint Conferences on Computer, Information, and Systems Sciences, and Engineering (CISSE'08), December 5 - 13, 2008.
- Firoj Alam , S. M. Murtoza Habib and Mumit Khan. “Acoustic Analysis of Bangla Consonants”, Spoken Language Technologies for Under-resourced language (SLTU'08), Hanoi, Vietnam, May 5 - 7, 2008.



Accepted Papers from CRBLP

The following papers were accepted in 2008 and published in 2009:

- Firoj Alam, S. M. Murtoza Habib and Mumit Khan, "Text Normalization system for Bangla", Conference on Language and Technology 2009 (CLT'09), NUCES, Lahore, Pakistan, January 22-24, 2009.
- Md. Abul Hasnat and Mumit Khan, "Elimination of splitting errors in printed Bangla scripts", *Proc. of Conference on Language and Technology 2009 (CLT09)*, Lahore, Pakistan, January 22-24, 2009.
- Md. Abul Hasnat and Mumit Khan, "Rule based segmentation of lower modifiers in complex Bangla scripts", *Proc. of Conference on Language and Technology 2009 (CLT09)*, Lahore, Pakistan, January 22-24, 2009.
- Md. Abul Hasnat, Muttakinur Rahman Chowdhury and Mumit Khan, "Integrating Bangla script recognition support in Tesseract OCR", *Proc. of Conference on Language and Technology 2009 (CLT09)*, Lahore, Pakistan, January 22-24, 2009.
- Md. Abul Hasnat and Mumit Khan, "Rule based segmentation of lower modifiers in complex Bangla scripts", Document Recognition and Retrieval XVI (DRR XVI), San Jose, CA, USA, January 21, 2009 - January 21, 2009. [Withdrawn]
- Md. Abul Hasnat and Mumit Khan, "Elimination of splitting errors in printed Bangla scripts", Document Recognition and Retrieval XVI (DRR XVI), San Jose, CA, USA, January 21, 2009 - January 21, 2009. [Withdrawn]
- Md. Abul Hasnat and Mumit Khan, "Rule based segmentation of lower modifiers in complex Bangla scripts", Document Recognition and Retrieval XVI (DRR XVI), San Jose, CA, USA, January 21, 2009 - January 21, 2009. [Withdrawn]
- Naira Khan, A Computational Approach to Language Documentation of Minority Languages in Bangladesh, Lesser Used Languages and Computer Linguistics (LULCL) II "Combining efforts to foster computational support of minority

languages", Bozen, Bolzano, Italy, 13th and 14th of November 2008. [Withdrawn]

Training and Workshops Attended by CRBLP Members

- CRBLP researchers Farhana Faruqe, Firoj Alam, Md. Abul Hasnat and S. M. Murtoza Habib were selected to attend the Summer School on Natural Language Processing and Text Mining workshop held at IIT Kharagpur from 24 to 29 June, 2008. Selection in this workshop was based on applicant's educational background, career, current project experiences, intention and potential to carry out and establish NLP (Natural Language Processing) research network in the region.
- CRBLP researchers Firoj Alam, Md. Abul Hasnat and S. M. Murtoza Habib were selected to attend the ADD-3 training (course on Image and Speech processing from February 25 to March 3, 2008) of ADD School in Thailand with full financial support. Selection in this workshop was based on applicant's educational background, career, current project experiences, intention and potential to carry out and establish NLP (Natural Language Processing) research network in the region and the quality of paper submitted to the ADD workshop.

Presentations from CRBLP

- "Acoustics Analysis of Bangla Phoneme Inventory" by Firoj Alam (ADD 3, Thailand).
- "Building Multi Script OCR for Brahmi Scripts Selection of Efficient Features" by Md. Abul Hasnat (ADD 3, Thailand).
- "A Post Processing Technique to Reduce Splitting of Error Bangla OCR" by S. M. Murtoza Habib (ADD 3, Thailand).

Software Released from CRBLP

- CRBLP has released a new alpha version of the BanglaOCR based on Tesseract's recognition engine for both Windows and Linux under the GNU Public License (GPL) version 2.

Collaborations of CRBLP

- Unicode released CLDR 1.6.0. For Bengali (Bangladesh) part of CLDR data, the contributors include S. M. Murtoza Habib, Firoj Alam, Naira Khan, Kamrul Hayder and Mumit Khan from CRBLP. The CRBLP team submitted data with the concern of IBM India and US.
- CRBLP is actively collaborating 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. 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.

Academic Visits from CRBLP

- Media Lab Asia Research Laboratory at IIT Kharagpur, India.
- Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) unit at Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), India

Undergraduate Thesis Supervision from CRBLP

CRBLP staff members supervise BRAC University CSE students interested in conducting research in the area of Natural Language Processing (NLP), specifically on Bangla Language Processing.

- Muttakinur Rahman Chowdhury (Shouro), **“Integration of Bangla script recognition support in OCRopus”**, Undergraduate Thesis (Computer Science), BRAC University, August 2008. Supervisor: Mumit Khan and Md. Abul Hasnat.

Workshops Organized by CRBLP

CRBLP organized a workshop on Optical Character Recognition from 4th January, 2008 to 28th January, 2008. The objective was to provide a complete understanding on Optical Character Recognition and OCR Framework (Bengali, Nepali & Multilingual). The topics discussed on

the workshop were pre-processing (binarization, noise removal, skew detection and correction, page layout analysis, character segmentation); script, font (size, orientation) independent OCR; feature extraction; classifiers; get better insight of HTK; Memory Management and exception handling; and platform independence of the developed OCR. Md. Abul Hasnat and S. M. Murtoza Habib was the trainer from CRBLP. Rajesh Pandey was the international participant from Nepal.

Seminars Organized by CRBLP

CRBLP presented a seminar on “Computational Linguistics in the Bangla Language: Current Situation and Future Prospects” On Monday, 14th September, 2008 at the Department of Linguistics, University of Dhaka. The seminar was organized by the “Linguistics Association of Bangladesh”.

CRBLP in the News

In February 2008, "The Daily Star", the most widely read English newspaper in Bangladesh, and a monthly tech-news magazine "The Monthly Computer Jagat" covered activities of CRBLP on Bangla language processing.

Cisco Local Academy under BRAC University

BRAC University has always played a leading role in the IT sector. Launching of the Cisco Local Academy in 2003 was one of the stepping-stones. Cisco Networking Academy is an innovative global education initiative that delivers information and communication technology (ICT) skills to help meet the need of qualified candidates to fill a growing number of networking positions in virtually every industry. Cisco Networking Academy has been educating the architects of the networked economy since 1997. Networking Academy delivers marketable ICT skills to approximately 700,000 students in more than 160 countries each year. Under this academy, BRAC University provides training on CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) Exploration and FWL (Fundamentals of Wireless LANs), both programs are part of the global Cisco

Networking Academy. Two of our instructors were sent to Indonesia to be trained as instructors for the FWL course.

In 2008, the CCNA Program in BRAC University currently had four instructors teaching three ongoing batches of approximately 20 students, each, and one batch under the FWL program. A CCNA certified professional course teaches how to install, configure, and operate LAN, WAN, and dial access services for small networks (100 nodes or fewer), including but not limited to use of these protocols: IP, IGRP, Serial, Frame Relay, IP RIP, VLANs, RIP, Ethernet, Access Lists. It is a prerequisite for CCNP®, CCDP®, and other certifications. Most of the telecom companies have made the CCNA certification mandatory. The CCNA curriculum consists of 4 courses, which is usually completed in 8 to 12 months. The required total contact hours, which include lecture, exam and lab hours, is 280 hours.

Cisco at BRAC University produced over 200 graduates who all are now well placed in various renowned organizations all over the country. Cisco graduates are now regularly employed by the leading telecom companies and government organizations, and Internet Service Providers. The Cisco Academy now have professionals from different organizations, students from different universities as our students.

Awards given to Cisco at BRAC University

BRAC University was the first university from Bangladesh to receive an award from the Cisco Networking Academy, Asia Pacific Region for “Outstanding Contribution and Dedication to the Networking Academy” at the annual Cisco Asia Pacific Academy Council Meeting and Workshop held last December 2007 in Hong Kong. The award was given by Sandy Walsh, Regional Manager, Cisco Networking Academy, Cisco Systems, Asia Pacific. Ms. Sadia Hamid Kazi, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, received the award on behalf of BRAC University.

Under this program, Cisco at BRAC University hosted the “United Nations Volunteer” in Bangladesh, a joint venture project of Cisco

Systems and UNDP, for up scaling the Academy and ICT Initiative in Bangladesh. The coordinator of this program has also been nominated to participate in the Networking Education Research Collaborative being launched by the Cisco Learning Institute.

Seminars/Workshops Organized by Cisco local Academy at BRAC University

➤ **Seminar on “Building Skills Capacity with Cisco Curricula in Bangladesh”**

A seminar organized by Cisco Local Academy at BRAC University titled as “Building Skills Capacity with Cisco Curricula in Bangladesh” held at LGED auditorium on 3rd July, 2008. The seminar had feature presentations by Mr. Lokesh Mehra, Regional Manager, Cisco Systems for the South Asia Region and Mr. Jagan Jothivel, Area Academy Manager for the SAARC Region for the Cisco Networking Academy Program. The objective of the seminar is to disseminate awareness about how the Cisco curricula are essential to build the skill capacity of Bangladesh.

➤ **Seminar on “Strategies for inclusion: Gender and the IT workplace”**

Cisco Local Academy at BRAC University organized a seminar on “Strategies for inclusion: Gender and the IT workplace”, held BRAC University on the 20th of November, 2008. The seminar had feature presentations by Dr. Upama Kabir, Associate Professor, CSE Department, Dhaka University and Ms. Mir Nadia Nivin, Result Management Officer, UNRCO & UNDP MGD and Ms. Neelima Yasmin, Manager, Corporate Portfolio Management, Information Technology Division, Grameenphone Ltd. The objective of the seminar was to portray role models to the younger generation to increase the number of women entering technology-related fields and also promote career advancement and professional education and training.

Seminars/Workshop Attended

The LMC of Cisco Local Academy, BRAC University was invited to the following conferences. All conferences were sponsored by

Cisco Learning Institute, a sister concern of Cisco Systems Limited.

- Asia Pacific Council Meeting and Workshop held in Hong Kong, 2007.
- SAARC Council Meeting held in Bangalore, 2008.
- Asia Pacific Council Meeting and Workshop held in Viet Nam, 2008.

Systems and Control Research Group (SCRG)

Systems and Control Research Group (SCRG) has started its journey since the year 2008 with four graduated students from the Electronics and Communication Engineering program under the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. Later on another two graduates (now Lab Technical Officers at BRAC University) had joined the group with their full technical support. Since the very beginning, SCRG focused on some quality research on the field of Control Engineering which leads them to publish two International publications titled as “Delay Analysis of Sampled-Data Systems In Hard RTOS” and “*Performance of PID controller both in Soft and Hard RTOS*” in ICCAS 2008 and China Ireland International Conference on Telecommunication (CICT2008) respectively. Further more, SCRG had initiated a research with Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd (DPDC) Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System to analysis and improve their system. Based on that study they had submitted another paper “Performance Improvement of DPDC SCADA System Using Hard Real-Time OS” in the 2nd International Conference on Control, Instrumentation and Mechatronic Engineering (CIM 2009) to be held in Malaysia. To the consequence of the SCRG research on SCADA they have arranged a training program provided by DPDC will be held shortly.

Conferences attended by SCRG Members

- **China Ireland International Conference on Information and Communications Technologies (CICT2008)**

C. M. Iftexhar Hussain, a member of SCRG and

a student of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, attended a three day long China Ireland International Conference on Information and Communications Technologies (CICT2008) on September 26- 28, 2008 in Beijing, China. The China Ireland International Conference (CIIT) is mainly a joint collaboration academic project by which these two countries made a technological bridge between them to share the advanced technological expertise and developments. This year the conference was organized by Beijing University of Post and Telecommunication (BUPT), one of the leading Universities in China, specialized in telecommunication. The opening of the CICT2008 was chaired by Professor Junping. Du, Professor Fagchun Yang and Irish Ambassador to China H. E. Declan Kelleher also addressed the conference.

C. M. Iftexhar Hussain was invited to present the paper “Performance of PID controller both in Soft and Hard RTOS”, submitted by the System and Control Research Group (SCRG) of BRAC University. He was the only participant other than the participants from China and Ireland. The participants from both countries well appreciated this paper.

Student Activities

BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) and BRAC University Electronics and Communication Club (BUECC) jointly organized industrial visit from Aug. 30, 2008 to Sept. 1, 2008 to Cox's Bazar to the following spots:

- Submarine Cable Landing Station (Fiber Optics)
- Meteorological Radar Station
- Beach Sand Exploration Centre

The senior students of BUCC and BUECC club visited the spots successfully under the guidance of the faculty member of the Department of Computer Science Mr. Syed Saiful Islam, Ms. Sadia Hamid Kazi, Ms. Afroza Sultana and Mr. M. Shahriar Zaman.

Department of English and Humanities (ENH)

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

➤ Seminar by Bernardine Evaristo

On February 10, 2008 Bernardine Evaristo, a contemporary British writer, gave a talk entitled “The Case Against Inbreeding” about the history of multicultural writing in Britain. The seminar was organized by the Department of English and Humanities in association with the British Council.

➤ Guest lecture on American Poetry by Professor Niaz Zaman

Professor Niaz Zaman delivered a guest lecture titled “Feminism in the Works of Three American Poets” on June 11, 2008. The lecture was given as part of the course ENG 366: Major Texts of the Feminist Tradition in the West. Professor Niaz Zaman, an eminent scholar, editor and translator, recently retired from the Department of English, University of Dhaka. In the lecture, she discussed the feminist aspects of the writings of Emily Dickinson, Sylvia Plath, and Adrienne Rich, focusing on the socio-political background of the poets and how it shaped their poetry. Students and faculty members of ENH attended and enjoyed the lecture.

➤ Guest Lectures by Dr. Radha Chakravarty

Dr. Radha Chakravarty, Reader in English at Gargi College, Delhi University, gave four guest lectures as part of the course ENG 366: Major Texts of the Feminist Tradition in the West during the third and fourth week of July, 2008. Dr. Chakravarty is a well-known scholar, critic, and translator.

➤ Guest lectures on Editing for ENG 401

Two guest speakers visited the ENG 401: Editing course in October. On 12th October, 2008 Mr. Modhon Shahu, Assistant Editor, The Daily Star, gave a guest lecture on editing and related matters. And on 28th Oct, 2008 Md.

Asiuzzaman, Acting Chairperson of Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Liberal Arts, showed a documentary film on editing and journalism titled “Getting the Story.” The documentary was followed by a discussion and question answer session with the students. The guest lectures were coordinated by the course teacher, Ms. Roohi Huda.

➤ Inauguration of ENH in new premises

The Department English and Humanities recently moved to the newly renovated 13th floor of Aarong House. Faculty members and students held a cultural function on 3rd December 2008 to inaugurate the department in its new premises. The program was held with great fanfare, and attended by ENH faculty members, students, and even department alumni.



➤ New Appointments

- ◆ Nazia Husain has rejoined BRACU as a Lecturer in the Department of English and Humanities on 8th January, 2008. She recently completed an MA in Applied Linguistics with Distinction from the University of Nottingham (UK). Nazia has taught at BRACU since 2002.
- ◆ Asifa Sultana joined BRACU as a Lecturer in the Department of English and Humanities on 1st July, 2008. She completed her MA in English (TESOL and Linguistics) from English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, and her BA in English Literature from Delhi University.

- ◆ Roohi Huda joined BRACU as a Lecturer in the Department of English and Humanities on 1st September, 2008. She completed her B.A. in English (cum laude) and an M.Ed. in Education from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (USA). Her M.Ed. thesis was titled “A Narrative Study on the Educational Experience of South Asian Immigrants in the United States.”

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

➤ ENH Student participates in Exchange Program

Samira Nafis, a student of the Department of English and Humanities, was among five students selected from BRAC University to participate in the US State Department funded South Asian Undergraduate Student Leaders Institute. Along with the other students, she toured various cities, universities, and historical monuments, lived with a local host family, and participated in a cultural program.

➤ ENH Student selected to spend a semester at Georgetown

Ridwana Kabir Orchi, a student of the Department of English and Humanities, was selected by the American Center, Dhaka, to participate in the Near East and South Asia Undergraduate Exchange Program sponsored by the US State Department. She will be spending the Spring 2009 semester studying at Georgetown University in Washington, DC (USA).

➤ ENG 115 Visit to Ekushey Boi Mela

The Department of English and Humanities organized a study trip to the Ekushey Boi Mela on 8th February, 2008, for students of ENG 115: Introduction to Prose. The students were accompanied by Razeen Abhi Mustafiz, Lecturer, ENH. The aim of the trip was to acquaint students with one of the largest literary events in the country and the spirit of the language movement which it commemorates. As part of the course, the students were required to submit an assignment based on the trip.

➤ ENG 115 Visit to Dhaka bookshops

As a part of the course Eng 115: Introduction to English Prose, students visited various book shops of Dhaka on June 7, 2008. The purpose of this visit was to introduce them to the different resources available and to acquaint them with the vast realm of books. The students under the supervision of Aroop Saha, Teaching Assistant, ENH, and Nurul Ahad, DCO, ENH. The students visited Words n Pages in Gulshan, Friends Book Corner in Nilkhet, and various book shops in New Market and Aziz Super Market.

➤ ENG 401 Study Trip to The Daily Star

The students of ENG 401: “Editing” went on a study trip to The Daily Star office in Karwan Bazar on November 26, 2008. Mr. Madan Shahu, Senior Assistant Editor, The Daily Star, gave them a guided tour of the different sections of the newspaper office. Mr. Zafar Sobhan, Assistant Editor, The Daily Star, spoke to them about the monthly magazine Forum. The students gained an in-depth understanding of how a newsroom functions, how pages are laid out, and how the different sections come together in the overall production of the newspaper. The study trip was organized by the course teacher, Ms. Roohi Huda, Lecturer, ENH.

➤ Theatre Visit

The students of ENG 114: “Introduction to Drama” went on a study trip to watch a production of the play Men Without Shadows by Jean-Paul Sartre. The play was staged by students of the Department of Natyakala, Dhaka University, at the T.S.C. Auditorium on November 13, 2008. The students were accompanied by the course teacher, Ms. Sohana Manzoor, Senior Lecturer, ENH, and Mr. Nurul Ahad, DCO, ENH.

➤ Undergraduate Thesis Presentation (Fall 2007)

As a requirement of the ENG 466: Thesis course, three graduating students (Fall 2007) of the Department of English and Humanities gave their thesis presentations on 3rd January 2008:

- Afrina Chowdhury: “The Postmodern

condition and the fiction of Kurt Vonnegut Jr. and Milan Kundera”

- Pinky Dutta: “Recent Trends in Teaching Writing at East West University in Dhaka”
- Tanzia Zaman: “The Role of a Teacher in a Language Classroom”

➤ **Undergraduate Thesis Presentation (Spring 2008)**

As a requirement of the ENG 466: Thesis course, seven graduating students (Spring 2008) of the Department of English and Humanities gave their thesis presentations on 4th May 2008:

- Tawheed Shams Chowdhury: “Thomas Hardy and Romantic Tradition”
- Amina Habib Cynthia: “Students' Interaction in ESL Classes”
- Samdina Jamil Rasha: “Approaches and Methods Implemented in Teaching English in an English Medium School”
- Eurida Khisa: “Teachers' Feedback and Error Correction in ESL Classroom”
- Shayera Moula: “Women in Nation-making: A domesticated reconstruction of their voices, bodies and selves”
- Mehjabeen Razzaque: “An Evaluation of a Language Textbook at Elementary Level”
- Nadia Saleh: “Different Aspects of Print Media: The Daily Star, A Case Study”

➤ **Undergraduate Thesis Presentation (Summer 2008)**

As a requirement of the ENG 466: Thesis course, five graduating students (Summer 2008) of the Department of English and Humanities gave their thesis presentations on 31st August, 2008:

- Nazma Akhter: “The Effects of Culture on Productive Skills”
- Tonima Azam: “Importance and Influence of Advertisement Copywriting”
- Shahida A. Chowdhury: “Representation of Women in Advertisements”
- Tanha Habib: “Schema, and its Positive Impact in ESL Listening Classes”
- Anami Kabir: “The Story So Far: Drawing

the Map of Children's Literature through Harry Potter”.

➤ **Undergraduate Thesis Presentation (Fall 2008)**

As a requirement of the ENG 466: Thesis course, two graduating students (Fall 2008) of the Department of English and Humanities gave their thesis presentations on 17th December 2008:

- Sharmin Chowdhury Sumi: “Feature Writing and Cultural Reporting: An Experience at NEW AGE, The Daily Newspaper”
- S.M. Abu Layes Khan: “Different Aspects of a Newspaper - A Case Study on NEW AGE”

➤ **Master's Thesis Presentation (Summer 2008)**

As a requirement of the ENG 699: MA Thesis course, the first two graduating MA students (Summer 2008) of the Department of English and Humanities gave their thesis presentations on 31st August, 2008:

- Aroop Saha: “Middle Class Alienation and the Emergence of the Indian English Novel”
- Md. Tofazzal Hossain: “Communicative Language Teaching: Teachers' Perception in Bangladesh (Secondary Level)”

➤ **Master's Thesis Presentation (Fall 2008)**

As a requirement of the ENG 699: MA Thesis course, Md. Monjurul Islam, a graduating MA student (Fall 2008) of the Department of English and Humanities gave his thesis presentation on 28th December 2008. His presentation was titled “Teacher's understanding and practice of CLT in Higher Secondary Level of Bangladesh.”

TEACHERS' ACTIVITIES

➤ **Keynote lecture by Prof. Firdous Azim at Doris Lessing Conference**

Prof. Firdous Azim, Chairperson, ENH, was the keynote speaker at the “Doris Lessing: Many Voices” conference hosted by the Department of

English, University of Dhaka, on 16th April, 2008. Her lecture was titled “*The Golden Notebook: A Feminist Manifesto*.” Zahirul Islam, a student in the MA program in English, also attended the conference and presented a paper titled “Madness and Women in *The Bell Jar* and *The Grass is Singing*.”

➤ **Keynote Lecture on women's history by Prof. Firdous Azim**

Prof. Firdous Azim, Chairperson, Department of English and Humanities, delivered the keynote lecture at a workshop titled “Poverty of Knowledge: Women's History - Crisis and Possibilities,” held on 20th August, 2008. The workshop was organized by the Bangladesh chapter of the International Federation for Research in Women's History (IFRWH) and was hosted by the Department of History, Dhaka University.

➤ **Two Faculty Members present a paper at Jahangirnagar University**

Nazia Husain and Mohammad Mahmudul Haque, Lecturers from the Department of English and Humanities of BRAC University, presented a paper on the 21st of June, 2008, the second day of a 2-day long conference 'english4today', arranged by the Department of English of Jahangirnagar University, Savar. Based on a case study, the paper titled, 'MI in Action - Exploring the Possibilities', weighs the potentials of Multiple Intelligences, an adapted language teaching approach, in the context of Bangladesh.

➤ **Lecturer goes on study leave for PhD program**

Tabassum Zaman, Lecturer, Department of English and Humanities, left BRACU to attend a fully-funded four-year PhD program in Cultural Studies at the National University of Singapore. Her doctoral research will examine reflections of urban spaces in literature and film, focusing on Dhaka.

➤ **Lecturer leaves on Fulbright Program**

Mahmudul Haque, Lecturer, Department of English and Humanities, left for Syracuse

University (New York, USA) on the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) program for one academic year.

➤ **Lecturer leaves BU to pursue MA at University of London**

Sahana Bajpaie, Lecturer, Department of English and Humanities, left BU to pursue an MA in Languages and Cultures of South Asia at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (UK). She will be doing research on literature of the 1947 partition.

➤ **Lecturer goes on study leave for PhD program**

Nazia Husain, Lecturer, Department of English and Humanities, left BU to attend a fully funded three-year PhD program in Applied Linguistics at the University of Nottingham. Her doctoral research will focus on second language learning motivation in Bangladesh.

Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS)

New Faculty Recruitment

- Mr. Navil Monsur Chowdhury joined as a lecturer in Economics in January, 2008. He obtained his MA in International Development from International University of Japan (IUJ), Japan.
- Dr. Shahidur Rahman joined as Assistant Professor of Sociology in August, 2008. Dr. Rahman obtained his PhD in Sociology from Monash University, Australia.
- Mr. Md. Abdul Wohab returned from his study leave in August, 2008 after completing a Master in Social Work from Flinders University, Australia and rejoined the department as a Senior Lecturer.
- Mr. A. K. Iftekhar Haque, joined as a Lecturer in August, 2008. Mr. Haque did his Masters Degree in Asian Studies (Major in Economics) from Lund University, Sweden and his BSS in Economics from the University of Dhaka.
- Mr. Naim Uddin Hasan Awrangajeb Chowdhury joined as a Lecturer in August,

2008. Mr. Rahman did his Masters Degree in Economics from the University of Chittagong.

- Ms. Fahmida Saadia Rahman joined as a Lecturer in October, 2008. Ms. Rahman did her Masters Degree in Economics from the University of Rajshahi.

Faculty Participation in Seminars and Workshops

- Dr. Manjur Karim, Associate Professor, was the main speaker in a seminar titled "The Political Economy on Globalization: The Phase of Resistance" on January 04, 2008 organized by the NGO Research and Development Collective. He participated in a seminar as a discussant titled "The Political Economy of Bangladesh" on January 06, 2008 organized by the same organization. He was also the main discussant in a seminar titled "Critical Theory of 21st Century" on January 06, 2008 organized by Aid Accountability Group, Bangladesh. On January 26, 2008 he participated in a seminar titled 'Global Action and Mobilization' organized by World Social Forum as a discussant. His article in the daily newspaper "The New Age", titled "Language, Nation and Multiplicity" was published on February, 21, 2008. Dr. Karim also presented a paper titled, "Beyond Euro centrism: Call for a Post Colonial Sociological Theory" at the South Asian Sociological Conference held on March 10-11, 2008 organized by Independent University, Bangladesh. He chaired a session at the "First National Education Conference on Wither Policy Reform in Education: Lessons and Challenges", organized by Unnayan Onneshan and held at CIRDAP Auditorium on March 02, 2008. He was a speaker in a Pre-Budget Seminar and a seminar on 'Internal Debt Cancellation' organized by the NGO Shushashoner Jonno Procharavijan (Campaign for Good Governance) in April, 2008 at the same location. On May 08, 2008 Dr. Karim chaired a seminar titled 'Karl Marx in our time' and gave a talk in another seminar on Aime Cesires on May 31, 2008. Both of these seminars were organized by Jana Shangskriti Mancha and held at RC Majumder Hall, University of Dhaka. Dr. Karim was the speaker in a seminar titled 'Jute Sector and the Effectiveness of Economic Policy' on June 29, 2008, at Press Club, VIP Lounge. The seminar was organized by 'Nagorik Shonghoti' a local Non Government Organization of Bangladesh.
- Mr. Jahangir Alam, Senior Lecturer, ESS attended a two-day research workshop to discuss his paper titled "Children in the Slums of Dhaka- Diarrhoea Prevalence and its Implications" to be included in the book 'Valuing the Invaluable : The Practice of Environmental Economics in South Asia". The workshop was held on 7th to 8th February, 2008 at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University Enclave, New Delhi, India.
- Moshahida Sultana, Lecturer, attended a seven day long workshop on Migration, Globalization, Security, and Development from March 9 to March 16, 2008. This workshop was organized by the South Asia Migration Resource Network (SAMREn) and held in Godavari village resort, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Mr. Tanzir Ahmed Chowdhury, Senior Lecturer, and Mr. Navil Mansur Chowdhury, Lecturer, went to Bangkok, Thailand to attend a course on 'Resource and Environmental Economics'. Mr. Tanzir Chowdhury was a resource person in that course and Mr. Navil Chowdhury presented a research proposal on climate change at that conference. The course was organized by South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) from May 05 to May 22, 2008.
- Mr. Kamrul Hasan, Lecturer, received an ASIA Fellows Award 2008-09 offered to

mid-level professionals from Asian countries to strengthen ties among Asian scholars and enhance Asian Studies in Asia. On June 27-28, 2008 Mr. Hasan attended the Orientation Program organized by Bangkok-based organization Asian Scholarship Foundation for Asian Fellows (cohort 10) in Bangkok, Thailand. At the Orientation Program, he gave a briefing on his proposed research project "Living with HIV/AIDS: A Study of Social Attitudes and Reactions towards HIV-Positive People in Northern Thailand" which will be conducted in Thailand for nine months and for which Mr. Hasan has been awarded the fellowship. Mr. Hasan also attended an international conference on 'Sheltered States, Troubled People, Threatened Cultures: Contemporary Challenge and Prospects for Asia's Change-Makers' during 25-26 June, 2008 held the same venue.

- Ms. Mahbuba Naznin Sani, Lecturer and Counsellor, along with the counselling team of BRAC University conducted a workshop on 'Mental Health & Counselling' on September 20, 2008 for students of the residential semester. The workshop was held at Sulla Building, Residential Campus, Savar, BRAC University. Ms. Sani also completed the fourth session of 'Certified Transactional Analysis Course in Counselling' offered by ASHA Counseling Centre, Bangalore, India held during 17-27 October, 2008 at Dhaka Club, Dhaka. She also attended a seminar on 'Primary Counselling in Mental Health Care: Need for Professionals in Bangladesh' on October 27, 2008 at the TSC Auditorium of the University of Dhaka organized by the Counselling and Guidance office, University of Dhaka. During November 1-3, 2008 she attended the 4th SAARC Psychiatric Federation Conference and 4th International Conference on Psychiatry held in Dhaka. On November 4, 2008 Ms. Sani attended the First Annual Conference and a General

Meeting of the Bangladesh Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health held at the National Institute of Mental Health, Dhaka. Ms. Sani also participated in 'Know Your Child Workshop', organized by Art and Living Foundation, Hongkong and Bangladesh held on November 27, 2008, at Eminence International College, Gulshan, Dhaka.

- Mr. A. K. Iftekharul Haque, Lecturer, attended the South Asian Civil Society Forum on 'Responding to Food Insecurity in South Asia' in Kathmandu, Nepal on 23-24 October 2008. In this two-day long program Mr. Haque shared the findings of his co-authored (with Professor Atiur Rahman) study titled 'Food Inflation and Public Distribution System: A Closer Look at the Food Security of the Marginalized'. Mr. Haque also facilitated a discussion of a thematic group on 'Procurement, distribution and viability of the proposed SAARC food bank' and participated in preparing the 'CSO Agenda' for the Meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of the SAARC Member States to be held in November, 2008 in India. The event was organized by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS)-International, India, and Oxfam (Novib), The Netherlands.
- Between November 22-23, 2008, Mr. Iftekharul Haque and Ms. Fahmida Saadia Rahman, lecturers, took classes in the Certificate Course on Development Professionals Program (Dev-Pro), at BRAC-TARC, Gulshan, Dhaka. The training program was organized by the Training Division, BRAC and BRAC University for the mid-level managers of BRAC. Ms. Rahman gave a lecture on the basic concepts of Economics and Mr. Haque gave a lecture on the Economy of Bangladesh.
- Mr. Jahangir Alam, Senior Lecturer,

presented a paper titled 'Economic Costs and Determinants of Diarrhoeal Prevalence and Duration in Children of Dhaka City Slums, Bangladesh' at the 16th Annual Conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. The conference was held in the School of Business, Economics and Law at Goteborg University, Gothenburg, Sweden during June 25 - 28, 2008.

- Mr. Tanzir Ahmed Chowdhury, and Mr. Jahangir Alam, Senior Lecturers, participated in the SANDEE 15th Biannual Research and Training Workshop held during January 8-11, 2008 at AIT, Pathumthani, Thailand. Mr. Chowdhury presented a progress report on his project titled 'Valuing Health Benefits of Air Pollution Reduction in Dhaka City: Cost of Illness Approach' and Mr. Alam also presented a progress report on his project titled 'Changing Behavior through Dissemination of Information and Technology for Reducing Child Diarrhea'. They also participated in a workshop on Global Climate Change and its Economic Implications.

Faculty Members leaving for Higher Studies

- Tanzir Ahmed Chowdhury, Senior Lecturer, went on study leave to pursue his Ph.D in Economics at University College London (UCL), United Kingdom. Ms. Dina Tasneem, Lecturer, left BRAC University to pursue a PhD in Economics at McGill University, Canada.

Seminars, Presentations and Workshops in ESS by Guests and other Speakers

Seminar by Dr. Annu Jalais

- Dr. Annu Jalais, Anthropology Department, London School of Economics, UK, presented her ongoing research paper titled "Unmasking the Cosmopolitan Tiger", in a seminar organized by the Department of Economics and Social Sciences. The seminar was held on Thursday February 07,

2008 at ESS Conference Room. In her paper she looked at two different representations of tigers in recent history, one colonial and the other national and highlighted how representations, even of wild animals, are ultimately linked to power. The paper was based on fieldwork conducted in the Sundarbans region of West Bengal between 1999-2001.

Presentation on E-Resources of Ayesha Abed Library

- On February 14, 2008 Ms. Hasina Afroz, Deputy Librarian, Ayesha Abed Library, BRAC University made a presentation to ESS faculty members about PERI and EBSCO, two systems of e-resources through which students and faculty members can gain access to many world renowned journals.

ESS Seminar Series: Presentation by Dr. Mahabub Hossain

- Dr. Mahabub Hossain, Executive Director, BRAC gave a presentation on "BRAC: Its role in addressing development challenges in Bangladesh " on March 20, 2008 at ESS Conference Room. The seminar was organized by The Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS). In his presentation he focused on various programs of BRAC, such as Microfinance Program, Agriculture Development Program, Health Program, Social Development Program and Human Rights and Legal Services and how these programs and other activities of BRAC are helping the poor to alleviate poverty and to increase productivity.

ESS Seminar Series: Pre- Budget Seminar by Dr. Atiur Rahman

- The Department of Economics and Social Sciences arranged a seminar titled 'Reflection on Budget 2008-09', on June 15, 2008, at ESS Conference Room. Professor Atiur Rahman, Chairman of "Shamunnay was the main speaker of that seminar. Professor Rahman discussed the



perspectives and the features of upcoming national budget 2008-09. He also pointed out the current macroeconomic problems facing Bangladesh and some recommendations for the budget on the basis of these problems.

Seminar on PRSP and Gender Budgeting

- Dr. Kaniz Siddique, International Consultant, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, presented a seminar on 'PRSP and Gender Budgeting' at ESS Conference Room on July 24, 2008. Ms. Siddique discussed the various nature of gender inequalities existing in Bangladesh and how state can provide support to eliminate gender discrimination.

ESS Seminar Series: 'Women in Union'

- On October 11, 2008, the Department organized a seminar presentation by Dr. Shahidur Rahman, Assistant Professor on 'United They Stand: Women in Union'. In his presentation he focused on the patterns of labour union in Bangladesh and women's participation in labour unions.

ESS Seminar Series: Seminar on 'Uses and Abuses of Economics'

- Dr. Sajjad Zohir, Director, Economic Research Group, presented a seminar on 'Uses and Abuses of Economics' on November 06, 2008, at ESS Conference Room. In his discussion Dr. Zohir focused on the history of economic thought as well as sharing his thoughts on the subject matter of Economics. He also discussed applications and research methods of Economics.

ESS Seminar Series: Seminar on 'Social Ecological Market Economy'

- Dr. Dieter W. Bencke, an Expert in Social Market Economy presented a seminar on 'Social Market Economy: A Model for Bangladesh' on November 05, 2008 at ESS Conference Room. In his lecture Dr. Bencke focused on the aims, intellectual sources, success conditions, policy examples and current challenges of social market economy. He elaborated on a possible SME model for Bangladesh.

Student Activities

International Student at ESS department

- Jane Wamwea Moore, a senior level student of the University of East London was admitted to the Department of ESS as a visiting student in the Spring semester of 2008. She took some courses of ESS and studied BRAC's Development projects under the supervision of Dr. Anwarul Hoque, Chair ESS.

ESS Seminar Series

- Tanveer Reza Rouf, an undergraduate student of ESS has presented his undergraduate thesis proposal on "Public Financing of Higher Education in Bangladesh", on Thursday February 28, 2008. The seminar was sponsored by the Department of Economics and Social Sciences.

First Thesis Proposal Presentations by MSAE Students

- On July 17, 2008, two graduate students of the newly instituted Master of Science in Applied Economics Program presented their thesis proposals. Sarah Salahuddin presented the proposal of her masters thesis on 'Impact of Remittances on Rural Asset Accumulation in Bangladesh' and Rakhi Mukharjee presented her masters thesis proposal on 'Impact of Remittances on Income Distribution of Bangladesh'. On November 27, 2008, Fahim Subhan Chowdhury, a graduate student of the same

program presented his thesis titled 'Willingness to Pay for Safe Water in Bangladesh: A Contingent Valuation Study'.

Achievements of ESS Graduates:

- Nahleen Zahra received a scholarship to pursue a Masters Degree in Economics at McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
- Tanveer Reza Rouf received a prestigious TSP-Huygens scholarship to pursue a Masters Degree in Social Sciences Analysis at Utrecht University, Netherlands.
- Nirvana Mujtaba received financial support to pursue her Master in Economics at York University, Canada.
- Shafqat Rana Sayed left to pursue his Master in Economics at Greenwich University, London, UK.

Activities of Bangladesh Studies (DEV 101) under ESS

CRP Visit by the students of Bangladesh Studies

- As a part of community service, the students of the residential semester visited The Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), Savar. A total of 150 students were divided into two groups and the first group went to CRP on March 01, 2008 and the second group went on March 08, 2008. The students visited various activities and programs of CRP for physically disabled people. A feature titled "We are not Disabled, We are Differently Able" written by Rudmila Ahmed, a student of Bangladesh Studies was published in Star Campus on March 30, 2008.

Independence Day Program of Bangladesh Studies

- On the eve of Independence Day, 2008, students and faculty members of Bangladesh Studies (DEV 101) organized a program at the Residential Campus of BRAC University, TARC, Savar. The program started in the morning with a rally of students, faculty members, RS Campus

Super and other staff of BRACU and BRAC. They placed a flower wreath at the replica of National Memorial at TARC, Savar. A competition of indigenous games was also arranged and students and faculty members participated in the competition. In the evening a cultural program marked 'Independence Day' was organized and students rendered songs, recited poems and performed dances.

Village Visit by the Students of Bangladesh Studies

- To familiarise students with village life in Bangladesh, Bangladesh Studies (DEV 101) arranged a village visit for 150 students of the course on 10th April, 2008. The students were divided into eight groups and went to two villages named Kakabo and Shamar near Savar. The faculty members of Bangladesh Studies accompanied the students. The students collected information on the basis of a questionnaire designed by the course coordinator. Students also submitted a report to their course teachers on the basis of their visit.

“Ora Egaro Jon”

- On May 22, 2008 Bangladesh Studies (DEV 101) in collaboration with BRAC University Film Club organized a film show. Students very much enjoyed 'Ora Egaro Jon'- the first movie released on the independence war of Bangladesh. This movie show was a part of the academic exercise of the course and students submitted assignments on the movie to their course teachers.

Lecture on Bangla Music

- Dr. Mridul Kanti Chokroborti, Professor, Department of Music and Theater, University of Dhaka gave a talk on the 'Evolutionary Development of Bangla Music over Thousand Years' to the students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV 101) at TARC, Savar in May, 2008. He along with his co artists also performed some classical and modern Bangla songs for the students. The

whole event was organized by the Department of Economics and Social Sciences of BRAC University.

Museum Visit by the Students of Bangladesh Studies

- On June 07, 2008, a total 95 students of the course of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) went to visit Liberation War Museum and National Museum of Bangladesh as part of their academic activities. Students were divided into two groups and both groups visited the two museums by rotation. Department of ESS organized the museum visit to enlighten BRACU students with the history and culture of Bangladesh. On the day of the visit, authority of Liberation War Museum arranged a documentary film show and a quiz competition on Liberation War for the students. Mr. Tuhin Roy and Mr. Iftekhairul Karim, teaching assistants of ESS supervised the program.

Learning From the Field: Students Visited BRAC Programs

- Students of the course Bangladesh Studies (DEV 101) participated in 'Learning from the Field'- a five day program (from July 04 to July 08, 2008), visiting development programs of BRAC. A total of 253 students divided into eight groups, went to TARCs in eight different districts - Jessore, Pabna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Modhupur, Mymensingh, Comilla and Srimongol. Eight groups were led by faculty members from different departments of BRACU. They were assisted by Teaching Assistants and House Tutors of the university.

Students learnt about BRAC's core programs - Microcredit program, Health program, Education program, Social Development, Human Rights and Legal Services program. Students prepared their assigned reports on different BRAC programs through interaction with Village Organization (VO) members of BRAC, staffs of BRAC and community people and made presentations on BRAC Programs on

the final day of the visit. BRAC popular theatre groups staged drama in different TARCs. Students also visited to local historical sites and learned the history and tradition of Bangladesh.

Earlier on July 03, 2008, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRACU gave a lecture on 'Overcoming the Negative Images: The Role of NGOs in Bangladesh' at Savar TARC. Seven Directors of BRAC conducted a seminar on BRAC for all RS students.

Students at CRP & National Memorial

- The Department of Economics and Social Sciences organized two visits for the students of the residential semester to the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), Savar and National Martyrs' Memorial, Savar on 26 July 2008. A group of 86 students of the course Bangladesh Studies (DEV 101) participated in the whole day program at these two places.

Museum and CRP Visits by the Students of Bangladesh Studies

- On October 11 and on November 08, 2008 a total of 80 students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) went to visit the Liberation War Museum and Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), Savar, on each occasion as part of their academic activities. Department of ESS organized the visits for the students of Bangladesh Studies.

Other Notable Events

ESS introduces Documentary Film Series

The Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS) has taken an initiative to show documentary films to introduce the students with the recent economic and social issues in Bangladesh and around the world. On May 22, 2008 a documentary named 'The Happiest People in the World', directed by Shaheen Dill-Reaz was screened at ESS conference room. It was followed by a discussion by students and faculty.

Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS)

During 2008 the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) of BRACU continued with its ongoing undergraduate programme in Physics (BS in Physics) and the postgraduate programme in Biotechnology (MS in Biotechnology) apart from offering various courses in Physics, Mathematics, Statistics, Biology and Economic Geography to the students of the other disciplines of BRACU. The average number of courses offered by the Department per semester was around forty. UGC also gave its approval during this period to the proposed BS in Applied Physics and Electronics and BS in Mathematics programmes. During the reported period the Department organized a number of topical seminar talks in the department. The faculty members also participated in different conferences, symposia, seminars, roundtable discussions held at local, regional or international levels.

The various activities of the Department and its faculty are enumerated in the following:

Participation in Conferences, Symposia, Seminars, Workshops, Meetings, Roundtable Discussions etc.

➤ National Symposium “Advanced Materials”

Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad presided over the Theme Session of the National Symposium “Advanced Materials” held at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) on January 15, 2008. This conference was jointly organized by the Bangladesh Physical Society, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden. The keynote paper was presented by Dr. Sten Eriksson of Chalmers University of Technology. His keynote talk was titled “The Benefit of Neutron Diffraction in Materials Science Research”. He elaborated on the work of his group performed mainly at

Chalmers University and at ISIS, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in UK. Their work focused on perovskite and provskite related materials. Hydrogen conducting materials like $BaZr_{1-x}In_xO_{3-x/2}$ were also studied. These materials showed interesting magnetic and electrical properties. Working scientists in the field of materials science from different universities and R&D institutions of the country participated in the conference.

➤ The 6th Annual Scientific Conference of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU)

Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor of Biotechnology at the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) presented a paper entitled “GM Crops: Understanding the Nexus between Food Security and Biosafety” at the 6th Annual Scientific Conference of CVASU at Chittagong on March 6, 2008. The theme of this conference was “Changing World and Emerging Challenges: One World, One Health Approach” jointly organized by “One World One Health - Bangladesh Initiative” and CVASU. Scientists from home and abroad participated in the conference. Under the “Food Security and Food Safety” theme-session Dr. Islam's talk focused on transgenic or genetically modified (GM) crops which promise improved production thus ensuring better food security. The presentation also highlighted research needs aimed at assessing potential risk concerns of GM foods to ensure food safety for the consumers as well as the environment. With the changing world scenario and increasing food demands, Bangladesh may not be in a position to say 'no' to GM crops but keeping one informed about the mounting challenges and getting prepared for them was the objective of her talk. The oration evoked numerous questions on food, health and feed safety, which were addressed during the question-answer session. The day ended with the recognition of the importance of bio-safety as an up-coming challenge in the transforming world.

➤ **Second Congress of Young Biotechnologists of Bangladesh (Young BB)**

Ms. Nazlee Sharmin, Teaching Assistant of the MNS Department, presented a seminar talk in the 2nd Congress of Young Biotechnologists, Bangladesh (Young BB) held at T.S.C (Teachers and Students Centre) auditorium of Dhaka University on March 19, 2008. The theme of the Congress was “Biopharmaceuticals”. The presentation of Ms. Sharmin was entitled “Biopharmaceuticals: New Solutions to Old Problem”. In her talk, she highlighted the prospects and opportunities of biopharmaceutical business in Bangladesh in the context of the global market scenario. In order to attract the undergraduate students, her presentation also covered the basic techniques of producing biotech products, edible vaccines and also biopharming - the newly emerging modern concept of biopharmaceuticals. Hundreds of graduate and undergraduate students studying biotechnology at various public and private universities of Bangladesh as well as representatives from different pharmaceutical companies were present in the day-long congress.

➤ **Bose Conference on Contemporary Physics-08**

The Bose Conference on Contemporary Physics-08 was held at the Physics Department, Dhaka University from 19-21 March, 2008. The conference was jointly organized by the Physics Department, Dhaka University and the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy.

Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad of the MNS Department chaired a Technical Session on Nuclear Physics, Radiation Physics and Health Physics. Professor Arshad Momen of the Physics Department, Dhaka University acted as the rapporteur. There were ten contributory papers presented at this session. Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed of the MNS Department participated in the conference with an invited talk “Nonlinear Gravitational-Plasma Dynamics: Dark Solitons” in the high energy physics and plasma physics session.

➤ **The 3rd Bangladesh-Japan International Conference on Microbiology, Food Safety and Food Hygiene**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the 3rd Bangladesh-Japan International Conference on Microbiology, Food Safety and Food Hygiene organized jointly by the Bangladesh-Japan Association for Science and Technology and the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and held at the Senate Bhavan, Dhaka University on 24-25 March 2008. Mr. Manik Lal Somaddar, Special Assistant to the Chief Advisor was the Chief Guest of the conference. Mr. Masyuki Inoue, Japanese Ambassador and Professor S.M.A Faiz Vice Chancellor, Dhaka University were special guests. Professor Choudhury presented a paper on food safety, public health and socio-economic issues.

➤ **Workshop on Medical Biotechnology**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury was an invited speaker at the Workshop on Medical Biotechnology held at the IEDCR Auditorium, Mohakhali, Dhaka on 29-30 March, 2008 and organized by the National Technical Committee on Medical Biotechnology, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOB. Professor Choudhury presented a paper on Prospects of Medical Biotechnology in Bangladesh.

➤ **Discussion on Science Education in Bangladesh with the Daily Star Team**

Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad and Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in a discussion meeting on Science Education in Bangladesh at the Daily Star office on April 5, 2008. Mr. Mahfuz Anam and Mr. Shahnoor Wahid from the Daily Star and Professor M. Shamsheer Ali, Professor Ali Asgar, Professor Ahmed Shafee, Professor M. Kaykobad and Dr. A. M. Chowdhury also participated in the discussion.

➤ **International Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology Conference**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Dr. Aparna Islam participated in the 6th International Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology Conference organized by the Bangladesh Association for

Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology (BAPTC&B). The Conference was held at the Department of Botany, Dhaka University on 11-13 April, 2008. BRAC University was one of the sponsors of this Conference as part of its endeavor to promote biotechnology research and bio-safety in Bangladesh.

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury also presided over the Scientific Session IV entitled "Biosafety and Biotechnology". Dr. Aparna Islam who is a life member of the Association was the rapporteur at the plenary lecture in Scientific Session I entitled "Molecular Targeting & Drug Discovery in the Post-Genomics Era". Dr. Zaheed Husain, of the Harvard Medical School, USA was the keynote speaker of the Session. Scientists and researchers from home and abroad affiliated with different R&D institutions and universities attended the Conference.

➤ **Roundtable Discussion on "Future Implementation and Sustainability of Biosafety Systems in Bangladesh"**

Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor of Biotechnology Program, MNS Department, participated in the roundtable discussion on "Future Implementation and Sustainability of Biosafety Systems in Bangladesh", held in Dhaka on 10th May, 2008. The meeting was organized by the Development of National Biosafety Framework (NBF) Project of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of Bangladesh. The National Biosafety Framework has been recently developed by the Government of Bangladesh with a view to establishing a legislation regime. The roundtable discussion was participated by selected members of the NBF project personnel and other relevant stakeholders from the government, non-government, research and academic institutions and organizations. In the meeting, inter alia, recommendation were made for forming active networks to exchange programs among the concerned institutions for generating and disseminating knowledge on biotechnology and biosafety, both within and outside the country. On this occasion a number

of biosafety educational materials published under the NBF project was also launched by the Secretary, MoEF, Government of Bangladesh.

➤ **INASPCC Meeting, Oxford, UK**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the meeting of the Country Coordinators of International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), held at Oxford, UK on 13-15 May, 2008 at the invitation of the INASP. Professor Choudhury is a Member-Secretary of the Bangladesh-INASP Consortium Advisory Committee. BRAC University is a member of the Consortium. At this meeting, discussions were held about activities and future programs of the INASP for 2008-2010. Professor Choudhury presented the INASP activities in Bangladesh.

➤ **10th Pacific Regional Conference Organization**

Ms. Moushumi Zahur, Lecturer of Geography at the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) participated in the 10th Pacific Regional Conference Organization, held in Dhaka, on 15-16 May, 2008. She presented a paper entitled "Gap between Expectation and Reality: A Study on Housing Affordability by Middle-income Group of Dhaka". She was also an invited discussant of the two papers entitled "Estimation of House Price in Brahmanbaria Municipality using Hedonic Regression Analysis" and "Bowen Basin Regional Housing Model: Lessons for Developing Countries".

➤ **International Biotechnology Conference**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Dr. Aparna Islam participated in the International Biotechnology Conference 2008 organized by the Bangladesh Association for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (BABGE). The Conference was held at the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC), Dhaka on 7-8 June, 2008. Scientists and researchers from home and abroad affiliated with different R&D institutions and universities attended the Conference. Theme of this conference was "Biotechnology for Food Security, Renewable Energy and Poverty Alleviation".

Professor Choudhury chaired a Plenary Session where plenary lectures were presented by Dr. Robert Potter (Senior Associate, AgBios, Canada), Professor S. A. Samad (MITS Engineering College, India) and Dr. Nazib Ahsan (Post-doctoral Fellow, Tsukuba University, Japan). Dr. Aparna Islam presented a paper entitled “Isolation, Characterization and Preliminary Risk Assessments of a Novel Antifungal Defensin Peptide from Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.)” at the Scientific Session “Genetic Engineering, Biosafety and Concerns”. During discussion session emphasis was given on continuation of the present work in the context of Bangladesh. Issues like importance of public-private-partnership and an optimal utilization of National Institute of Biotechnology (NIB) also were emphasized by the participants. Dr. Islam informed the audience about BRAC University's initiatives in this regard.

➤ **Workshop on Medical Biotechnology**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the Workshop on Medical Biotechnology organized by the National Committee on Medical Biotechnology, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh, held at the IPH Auditorium, Mohakhali on 8-9 June, 2008. Professor Choudhury presented a paper on Government Initiatives in Biotechnology including Medical Biotechnology. He was the Chief Guest of the Concluding Session and distributed certificates to the participants from different medical colleges, hospitals, clinics and officials of the Health Ministry of Government of Bangladesh.

➤ **24th Annual Conference of Bangladesh Society of Microbiologists**

The 24th Annual Conference of the Bangladesh Society of Microbiologists was held at IFST Auditorium, BCSIR on 28th June, 2008. This year, the theme of the conference was “Microbes in the Food and Environment”. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury presented the keynote paper “Microbes in Food and Beverages” at the Conference.

➤ **The 33rd World Conference of WAGGGS, Johannesburg, South Africa**

Ms. Lopamudra Chakravarty, Lecturer of Mathematics at the MNS Department who is also a Ranger of Shamamana Open Ranger Unit, Bangladesh Girl Guides' Association attended the 33rd World Conference of WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) held from July 6-12, 2008 in Johannesburg, South Africa, as a young leader. WAGGGS is the largest association of women in the world. One hundred and forty four countries are members of this association. In this conference several issues regarding the development of women were discussed. Through learning sessions and workshops the participants shared and exchanged their own views and opinions. Since WAGGGS always gives special importance to young delegates, they took interview of Ms. Chakravarty as a young delegate of the Asia Pacific Region. In this conference Nelson Mandela's wife Graca Machel was present as the keynote speaker. The participants were inspired by the words of international advocate for children's and women's rights of the keynote speaker. She also received WAGGGS' highest honour, the World Citizenship Award. Ministers of the Government of the Republic of South Africa were present in the various events held in the evenings. This year's conference theme was “Join in, reach out and change lives.” After three years from now the 34th World Conference will be held in Edinburgh, UK with a new theme.

➤ **Round Table Discussion on the Status of Science Education, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury of the MNS Department participated in a round table discussion on the status of science education in the country held at the Daily Star office on July 12, 2008. The event was jointly organized by the Daily Star and the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences. The round table discussion covered the issues on Government policy on science education and what the government should do to improve the quality of science education.

Bioinformatics tools. This discipline has great potentials in medicine, health, agriculture and environment. At the end of the presentation a lively question and answer session followed. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury thanked the speaker for his lucid presentation and said that it would inspire the students and the faculty members to start work in this field.

➤ **Seminar on “Bioinformatics: Prospects and Opportunities for Bangladesh”**

A one-day Seminar on “Bioinformatics: Prospects and Opportunities for Bangladesh” was held on 5th August 2008, at the Centre of Excellence, Dhaka University. Professor S. M. A. Faiz, Vice Chancellor, Dhaka University was the Chief Guest and Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University was the Special Guest. The seminar was jointly organized by Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) and the Department of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Dhaka University. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Dr. Aparna Islam and Ms. Nazlee Sharmin from BRAC University participated in the seminar. Three invited speakers from United States of America presented keynote papers.

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury emphasized the need for bioinformatics research in Bangladesh. With the rapid advancing of the internet facilities in the country it is possible to do quality research on genomics and proteomics with available bioinformatics tools. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury in his welcome address thanked the expatriate scientists for responding to the invitation for the seminar and pointed out the importance of collaborative research in the new and emerging areas of biotechnology and genetic engineering.

➤ **Training Workshop on Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) of Bangladesh**

Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor of Biotechnology Program, MNS Department participated in the two-day long training workshop on “Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) of Bangladesh” held in Dhaka on the 5-6 August, 2008. The workshop was organized by the

National Biosafety Framework (NBF) Project of the Development of Environment (DoE) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of Bangladesh with technical support from UNEP-GEF. Dr. Monorajan Hota and Mr. Damir Amirov, Regional Advisors of UNEP-GEF BCH gave hands-on training to the participants on the Central Portal BCH located in Montreal, Canada while IT specialist Mr. Nazmul Ahsan and his team at the DoE introduced the participants to the Bangladesh BCH that they have developed in accordance to the Central Portal.

The Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) is an information exchange mechanism established to assist concerned people and countries exchanging scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with, LMOs. Bangladesh, a signatory of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, has the obligation of establishing this web-based biotechnology information mechanism. In this backdrop DoE gave this training to selected members of the NBF project and other relevant stakeholders from the government, non-government, research and academic institutions and organizations of the country. This training program was a continuation of the training that was held on the 29th July 2007, where the same participants were introduced to the concept of web-based information sharing.

➤ **National Workshop on Cartagena Protocol and Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) for Bangladesh and Launching of Bangladesh BCH**

Dr. Aparna Islam of Biotechnology Programme, MNS Department participated in a day long program on “National Workshop on Cartagena Protocol and Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) for Bangladesh” held in Dhaka on the 7th August, 2008. At the inaugural function was presided by Dr. Khandaker Rashedul Haque, DG of the Department of Environment (DoE). Mr. A.H.M. Rezaul Kabir (NDC) Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) was the Chief Guest and Mr. Md. Qamar Munir Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and

Forest (MoEF) was the Special Guest. In the opening session, Mr. Kabir launched the web based information center, “Biosafety Clearing House for Bangladesh” (<http://www.bchbd.org>), which simultaneously got inter-connected to the Central Portal making our country information available throughout the world. By this installation Bangladesh has fulfilled one of the obligations as a signatory of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In the technical sessions obligations of Bangladesh and achievements made so far in fulfilling those were explained by Mr. Solaiman Haider, Project Director of NBF, DoE. The functions and uses of Central Portal and BCH-BD were also described in the technical sessions. Need of capacity development and institutional strengthening in experimental facilities were reiterated. In the concluding session Mr. Qamar Munir emphasized on sustainability of Bangladesh BCH. To attain this, importance of training of the relevant personals to take advantage of the vast information available in the Central Portal in order to make educated decision about LMOs and GMOs was elucidated. In this regard, Government's intention to take the training into the next phase where participants who have already received the hands on BCH training will give training to a wider range of people to introduce this new information hub. In this regard, networking of the participants and DoE was underlined to carry out such activity proper in an effective manner.

➤ **Inter Academy Panel Meeting, Ottawa, Canada**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Panel held in Ottawa, Canada from 8-9 September, 2008 at the invitation of the Inter Academy Panel (IAP) on international issues. The Meeting discussed some important global issues like climate change, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), capacity building, women's health education, science education, water resources and management, biosecurity, natural disaster mitigation, access to digital knowledge, etc. The Meeting decided to participate in the World Economic Forum's “Annual Meeting of

New Champions 2008” otherwise known as the Summer Davos to be held in Tianjin, China from 26-28 September, 2008. It may be mentioned here that the IAP is a forum of 100 Academies of Sciences of the world including the Royal Society, UK and the Japan Council for Science.

➤ **19th Asian International Network Seminar, Kathmandu, Nepal**

Ms. Moushumi Zahur, Lecturer of Geography at the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences participated in the 19th Asian International Seminar held in Kathmandu, Nepal on October 19-24, 2008. Representatives from thirteen Asian countries participated in the seminar. The main theme of the seminar was “Degrading Environment: A Stark Reality and Our Prime Concern”. Ms. Zahur also participated in a group discussion on “How to Address Our Local Environment Degradation Issues” and gave a presentation on the theme. The program ended with a filed trip to Chitwan.

➤ **Certificate Course, ICGEB, New Delhi, India**

Ms. Jebunnesa Chowdhury, a student of MS in Biotechnology Program recently participated in a certificate course on plant biotechnology entitled “Theoretical and Practical Courses on Transgene Expression in Plants” organized by the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi, India on 3-14 November, 2008. The course was held at the Plant Transformation Laboratory of ICGEB under the supervision of Dr. V. S. Reddy. Ms. Chowdhury received hands-on experience of tissue culture, transformation and analysis (e.g. PCR, ELISA) of transgenics and its expression. The course also included theory classes on relevant topics. She presented a paper entitled “Establishment of regeneration protocol in locally grown tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Miller) varieties of Bangladesh” where she presented the research data of her MS thesis which she is carrying out under the supervision of Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor of MNS Department BRAC University and Professor Zeba I. Seraj, Dhaka University.

➤ **International Congress on Medical Physics, China**

Mr. Anisur Rahaman, Lecturer of Physics at the Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences attended the Great Wall 2008 International Congress on Medical Physics and the 14th National Annual Meeting of Medical Physics organized by the Chinese Society of Medical Physics and the North American Chinese Medical Physicists Association. The meeting was held at Capital Library Building, Beijing, China on 23-26 November, 2008. He presented a paper entitled “Carcinoma of Cervix in the Women of Bangladesh and its Dosimetry in the Case of Remote after-loading Brachytherapy.”

➤ **ICGEB-BRAC University Symposium on Biosafety and Regulatory Issues**

BRAC University and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Italy, organized a three-day long International Symposium on “Safety and Regulatory Issues in Commercialization of Biotechnology Research in Developing Countries” on 2-4 December, 2008. The Symposium was held at the RDEC Bhaban, LGED Headquarters, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. Various issues covered by the Symposium included technology transfer, biosafety, bioethics, IP and IPR. The symposium was inaugurated by Dr. C. S. Karim, Advisor to the Caretaker Government for Agriculture and Water Resources. Mr. Manik Lal Samaddar, Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser in-charge of MoSICT was present as the Special Guest. Others who spoke on the occasion were: Dr. M. H. A. Hassan, Executive Director, TWAS, Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, and Chairperson, Organizing Committee, Professor Shamsher Ali, President, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, and Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Coordinator, Biotechnology Program, BRAC University. A large number of foreign experts took part in the Symposium. Among the foreign speakers were: Professor V.S. Chauhan, Director, ICGEB, India, Professor Ulf Petrusson, Director, CIP, Sweden, Dr. Tim Osslund, California State University

Channel Islands Campus, USA, Professor Timothy Caulfield, University of Alberta, Canada, Professor Kalyan Das, Rutgers University, USA, Professor J. Kinderleler, University of Cape Town, South Africa, Dr. Mark Tepfer, ICGEB, Italy, Professor Glenda Gray, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, Dr. M. C. Somavillas, Centre for GEB, Cuba, Professor A. L. Ibrahim, International Islamic Academy for Life Sciences and Biotechnology, Malaysia, Dr. V. Siva Reddy, ICGEB, New Delhi, India, Mr. D. Ripandelli, ICGEB, Italy, Dr. H. Subramanian, IP Attorney, India, and Professor A. A. Azad, TWAS Professor, BRAC University. A large number of local participants from different universities and research organizations presented papers on themes of the Symposium. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Dr. Aparna Islam presented papers on biosafety, and on collaboration in capacity development, respectively.

Lectures

➤ **“Oceanography and Status of Oceanographic Studies and Data Management in Bangladesh”**

Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad gave a seminar talk entitled “Oceanography and Status of Oceanographic Studies and Data Management in Bangladesh” on January 31, 2008 at BRAC University. With an introduction to oceanography at the very outset of the seminar, Professor Ahmad touched upon the many broad aspects of oceanography such as geological oceanography, physical oceanography, chemical oceanography, biological oceanography, economic oceanography, ocean pollution etc. He elaborated on the different past oceanographic expeditions and put forward facts and figures which are not only interesting but are intriguing at times. He talked about the status of oceanographic studies in Bangladesh and the issues related to oceanic sciences which need to be addressed urgently. Oceanographic studies are all the more important and pertinent because of the fact that about one-fourth of the country's total area is coastal and approximately twenty-one percent of the total population lives

in the coastal area which has undergone geomorphological changes throughout the entire life of this deltaic region, he added. The seminar was participated by the faculties of the MNS Department and also by some students. The participants took part in a lively discussion which followed the presentation of the seminar.

➤ **“Physics in Fundamental Understanding of Nature”**

Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, delivered a seminar talk titled “Physics in Fundamental Understanding of Nature” on February 28, 2008. Latest developments of various concepts and phenomena in physics were described in the talk. The twelve building blocks of nature: six quarks and six leptons, their discoveries and their basic characteristics were presented in a lucid manner. The characteristics of four fundamental forces and their possible unification were also discussed. Professor Ahmed also mentioned about the electro-weak theory combining the electro magnetic and weak nuclear interactions and the subsequent award of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1979 to them. Einstein's dream for the Grand Unification Theory (GUT), current trends of applications of physics concepts, and laws to bio-sciences, economy, finance, environment, climate change, global warming, etc. were discussed. Some videos of Nobel laureate Sheldon Glashow were also shown. Professor Jamal Nazrul Islam, Professor Emeritus of Chittagong University, teachers from the MNS Department and from other universities, students of BRAC University and from Saint Joseph Higher Secondary School attended the seminar. Lively discussion ensured the presentation. The seminar was presided over by Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad of the MNS Department.

➤ **“Biotechnology-Present Status and Future Prospects in Bangladesh”**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Coordinator, Biotechnology Programme at BRACU was invited by the National Defence College, Mirpur Cantonment, Dhaka to deliver a lecture on “Biotechnology - Present Status and Future

Prospects in Bangladesh”. Professor Choudhury delivered the lecture on 6th May, 2008.

➤ **“The New Biology: The Network Metaphor”**

Professor Animesh Ray of Keck Graduate Institute, Claremont, CA, USA gave a seminar entitled “The New Biology: The Network Metaphor” on July 30, 2008. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury introduced the speaker to the audience and Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury moderated the seminar. Faculty members of MNS and other departments and some students attended the seminar. Professor Ray presented different features of bioinformatics tools for understanding the cellular processes at the molecular level. System biology, he explained, is the coordinated study of biological systems by investigating the components of cellular networks and their interactions by applying experimental high throughputs and whole genome techniques and integrating computational methods with experimental efforts. Bioinformatics conceptualizes biology in terms of molecules and applies informatics techniques to understand and organize information associated with these molecules on a large scale. Professor Ray mentioned that many of the common diseases like hypertension could be explained at the genetic levels through understanding the genomics.

➤ **“Food Safety, Public Health and International Trade Issues for Developing Countries”**

At the invitation of the Research Centre for Mathematical Physics, University of Chittagong, Professor Naiyyum Choudhury gave a seminar talk on Food Safety, Public Health and International Trade Issues for Developing Countries in the auditorium of the Centre on 2nd August, 2008. The faculty members of the RCMP and other departments participated in the seminar.

➤ **“New Biotechnology and Human Welfare”**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Coordinator,

Biotechnology Programme gave a seminar talk on New Biotechnology and Human Welfare on the 8th August, 2008 in the seminar room of the department of MNS. Faculty of the MNS and other departments were present in the seminar.

➤ **“The Higgs Boson (and the particle masses)”**

Dr. Amin Hasan Kazi gave a seminar talk entitled “The Higgs Boson (and the particle masses)” on November 6, 2008. Faculty members of MNS and other departments and some students attended the seminar. In his talk Dr. Kazi also talked about the different fundamental interactions and the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN, Geneva, Switzerland.

➤ **“Biosafety and Regulatory Issues: National and International Perspectives”**

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury was invited by the Research Centre for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (RCMPS), Chittagong University to give a seminar on biosafety. The seminar was held at the auditorium of the RCMPS on 18th December, 2008. Professor Choudhury presented his seminar talk entitled “Biosafety and Regulatory Issues: National and International Perspectives”. A large number of academic staff and postgraduate students of different departments participated in the seminar and took active part in the discussion.

Other Events and Activities

➤ **ACI Bangladesh Ltd. Scholarship for MS Biotechnology Programme**

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University along with Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad and Professor Naiyyum Choudhury of the Mathematics and Natural Sciences Department met with Mr. Anisud Dowla, Chairman of ACI Bangladesh Ltd. on January 9, 2008 to inform him about the biotechnology program at BRAC University. Postgraduate Program at BRAC University was launched in Spring 2007 and at present ten students are enrolled for the course. The program envisages to develop human resource

in this new and emerging area so that the trained graduates from BRAC University can serve in different academic institutions and R&D organizations of the country. Students are attached to ICDDR,B, BIRDEM, Dhaka University and BRACARDC for their research projects in different areas of biotechnology. The Vice Chancellor requested Mr. Anisud Dowla to look into the possibilities of sending employees involved in biotechnology work at ACI for pursuing Master's degree in biotechnology at BRAC University. Mr. Dowla highly appreciated the program and showed his interest in such collaboration. ACI Bangladesh Ltd. gave Tk. Ten Lac for providing scholarships/financial assistance to the Masters students of Biotechnology. He also assured the Vice Chancellor of all cooperation in the future.

➤ **Election to the Board of Governors, NOAMI**

The Annual General Meeting of National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI), followed by an election to its Board of Governors was held on February 2, 2008 at NOAMI office, Dhaka. Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad and Professor Naiyyum Chowdhury of the MNS Department of BRAC University were elected to the offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for the period 2007-2009.

➤ **MS Biotechnology Students' Trip to Square Agritech**

On the 22nd March 2008, the Masters students of Biotechnology, accompanied by Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor of the MNS Department went on a study tour to Square Agritech, a commercial agri-based venture set up by the Square Group at Uttara Model Town. The complex consists of a tissue culture laboratory and a plantlet hardening area. The senior scientist in charge of the centre Ms. Nafisa Akhter took the students around the lab facilities and informed them about the step-wise procedures from washing, autoclaving, media preparation, inoculation, growing plantlets to hardening which is the final step before marketing. Tissue culture protocols collected

from various universities of the country are modified into financially feasible protocols at the centre before their commercial production. Established in 2002, Square Agritech is commercially producing virus-free potato certified seeds and virus-free banana saplings, which are widely accepted in the market. Work is also in progress with protocol adjustment of orchids, carnation, strawberry and stevia. Since the first commercial production in 2004 the centre has been enjoying increase in revenue indicating that eventually it will be self-sustaining. Perceiving the future expansion of the centre, students felt encouraged in continuing their studies with bright prospects of jobs in such biotech establishments and also felt encouraged in establishing such other labs for building up self-reliance.

➤ **MNS Department Study Tour**

The Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) of BRAC University organized a study tour on the 27th of March to Cox's Bazar. The study team consisted of Mr. Md. Maruf Ahmed, Lecturer, Mr. Shamim Azad, DCO and Ms. Nazlee Sharmin, Teaching Assistant in the Department of MNS and twenty four students. The study tour was mainly planned to visit two centers of scientific importance at the township: a remote hilltop Radar Station belonging to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and the Beach Sand Minerals Exploitation Centre of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC).

The meteorological radar station at Cox's Bazar aims at improving the communications and data analysis methods for predicting weather conditions along the coastal belt of Bangladesh. There are four radar stations located throughout the country. Set up in 2007, the Cox's Bazar station came under a grant aid as a token of friendship and cooperation between Japan and Bangladesh and acts as a relay station between Cox's Bazar and Khepupara, Barisal. The sole purpose of the station is to establish an improved weather forecasting system for the coastal regions of the country that has a crucial importance for a country such as Bangladesh for

providing advance warning for tropical storms and unexpected weather changes.

On their second visit, the students were taken to the Beach Sand Minerals Exploitation Centre (BSMEC) located at Kalatoli, a facility of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission. This centre, as the name suggests, retrieves minerals of economic importance from raw sands readily available along the coast and also in some nearby islands like Moheshkhali. Magnetite, ilmenite (iron/titanium oxide), garnet, rutile (titanium oxide) and zircon (zirconium silicate) are the five mineral compounds extensively extracted at this facility.

The students were also taken to two sites of natural beauty: Himchori, near the Cox's Bazar town and at Inani, a village situated approximately 15 km south of the town. The Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and BRAC University are really appreciative of the kind gestures of BAEC and BMD for facilitating the study tour.

➤ **5th Training Course on “Oceanography: Principles and Applications”**

The inaugural ceremony of the 5th Training Course on “Oceanography: Principles and Applications” was held on March 30, 2008 at the Atomic Energy Centre Dhaka (AECD). Professor A. M. M. Safiullah, Vice-Chancellor, BUET was the Chief Guest at the function presided over by Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad. The function was attended by resource persons, course participants, members of NOAMI and other guests. The classes started on April 1, 2008 and ended on June 30, 2008. A field trip of about a week's duration is an integral part of the course. Thirty noted scientists and researchers drawn from various R&D institutions and universities of the country acted as resource persons. Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad and Professor Naiyyum Choudhury also gave lectures respectively on physics and biotechnology topics related to oceanography. There are twenty participants nominated by the various R&D institutions of the country both in the public and private sectors attended this

course. This course was funded by the Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology, Government of Bangladesh.

The Closing and Certificate Award Ceremony of the training course was held on June 30, 2008 at the Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka (ACED). Professor Abdul Matin Patwari, Former Vice-Chancellor, BUET and D. G. IIT (IUT), OIC and at present the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Asia Pacific, Dhaka was the Chief Guest at the function presided over by Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad, Chairman of National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI). Rear Admiral (Retd.) M. H. Khan, Founder Chairman of NOAMI and its Chief Adviser also spoke on the occasion.

➤ **Visit of UGC Team for BS in Applied Physics and Electronics Program**

A team from the Bangladesh University Grants Commission (UGC) led by its Member Professor Ehsanul Haque, visited BRAC University on April 3, 2008 in connection with BRAC University's proposed BS program in Applied Physics and Electronics. The other members of the team included Professor Rezaul Karim Majumder of Dhaka University and a couple of officials of UGC. The team first made a call on the Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University, Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury. Professor Sayeed Salam and Professor Mumit Khan from the CSE Department and Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed and Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad from the MNS Department and the Registrar of BRAC University Mr. Mahmood Hasan were also present. The UGC team later visited the MNS Department to meet the faculty members and had discussion with them on various activities of the Department. Later on the team visited the Applied Physics Lab and expressed their satisfaction.

➤ **3rd Bangladesh Astro-Olympiad**

The national level competition of the 3rd Bangladesh Astro-Olympiad arranged by Bangladesh Astronomical Association was held in the Green Herald School, Dhaka on April 11, 2008. About 70 contestants selected from the

divisional level competitions took part. Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad spoke in the Certificate and Prize Awarding Ceremony presided over by the Principal of the school, Sister Asha Gomes. Other speakers included Dr. A. R. Khan, Former Professor of Applied Physics and Electronics, Dhaka University, Mr. Abdul Quaiyyum, Joint Editor of "Prothom Alo" and Dr. Rezaul Rahman, President of the Bangladesh Astronomical Association.

➤ **Math Olympiad (IUMO) 2008**

Nine students from BRAC University participated in the Interuniversity Math Olympiad (IUMO) 2008, organized by and held at East West University, Dhaka on June 21, 2008. About 60 students from different public and private universities of the country took part in the competition. Sudipto Amin (ID No. 06211001), majoring in Physics in the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences obtained the 5th position among the top ten contestants. The Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences feels proud for this achievement and congratulates Sudipto Amin for this laudable feat. The MNS Department also acknowledges with thanks the coach of the BRAC University Team, Mr. Md. Maruf Ahmed, Lecturer of Mathematics at the MNS Department, BRAC University.

➤ **BRAC Visit Programme**

Ms. Fardousi Ara Begum, Lecturer of Mathematics at the MNS Department, accompanied the students of the BRAC Visit Program at Rangpur TARC, from 4-9 July, 2008. Eight groups of students from the residential semester batch visited eight BRAC field areas spread all over Bangladesh, as a part of the Bangladesh Studies (DEV 101) course. The objective of this program was to make the students acquainted with BRAC activities in the development arena. The students and the accompanying faculty were enriched through this visit. The respective TARCs also had an opportunity to interact with the students and faculty of BRAC University.

➤ **Golden Jubilee (1958-2008) of Physics Department, Rajshahi University**

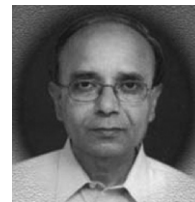
Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad was invited to take part in the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Physics Department, Rajshahi University held on October 16-17, 2008. He belonged to the first batch of students of the Physics Department of Rajshahi University, completing their Master's degree in 1960. The theme of the celebration was "Moving Ahead with Physics". More than seven hundred former and present students of the Physics Department and teachers registered for the event. Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad gave a talk entitled "Quo Vadis Physica? (Where Goest Thou, Physics?)". Professor S. M. Qaim from Cologne University and Julich Research Centre, Germany presented a paper on "Radiotracer Development for Positron Emission Tomography (PET)". The Golden Jubilee Celebration also included sessions of reminiscences by both past and present students of the department. There was a cultural function held in the evening of October 16, 2008 followed by a dinner.

➤ **Book Review**

BRAC Education Program (BEP) has developed secondary level mathematics textbooks for the mainstream schools. At the final stage of the work, there was a review session of the text materials was held on November 8, 2008 in Savar TARC. A group including mathematicians and school teachers were invited to participate in the exercise. Ms. Hasibun Nahar and Ms. Lopamudra Chakravarty, lecturers of mathematics, Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences attended the review session. There were some issues (contents, sequence, language, religion, gender, ethnic sensitivity, pictorial presentation, examples, exercises etc.) which had to be addressed. Several groups were formed to perform the task. Each group had responsibility to check the book of a particular class. After finishing the checking of the books presentations from different groups were made.

➤ **Obituary: Professor G. D. Roy (1949-2008)**

Professor Gouranga Dev Roy of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS), BRAC University passed away on Thursday, December 25, 2008 at his residence in Mirpur, Dhaka. A condolence meeting was held at the conference room of the MNS Department on Saturday, December 27, 2008 chaired by Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad. Departmental faculty members were present in the meeting to pay their respects to the departed soul.



Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, Professor Amin Hasan Kazi, Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Professor Amal Krishna Halder spoke on the occasion and reminisced about their association with Professor G. D. Roy. Ms. Sharmina Hussain, Md. Anisur Rahman and Mr. Shamim Azad also expressed their deep sorrow at this untimely demise of a dear soul. All the speakers were unanimous in appreciating the rare qualities in Professor Roy's character like utmost devotion, sincerity of purpose and whole hearted commitment to his students. He strove towards the betterment of the department and always stressed on the need of doing research along with teaching. The meeting stood in silence for one minute to show respect to the departed soul.

After completing B.Sc. (Hons.) in Mathematics from Dhaka University, Professor Roy obtained his M.Sc. in Applied Mathematics from the same university. He earned his Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi, India. He served as a Professor at Shahjalal University. He joined BRAC University in 2004. Then he went to Malaysia and taught there for a couple of years. He then rejoined BRAC University in January, 2008. Professor Roy was actively associated with the Bangladesh Math Olympiad. He is the author of the book "Ektukhani Ganit". He was also engaged in many research work. His positive attitude,

humility and enthusiasm always motivated his colleagues and students. His dreams were around mathematics, but the deadly disease of cancer took him away from his dreams.

Professor Gouranga Dev Roy left behind his wife, a son and a daughter. A condolence message was later sent to his wife Mrs. Swati Dev Roy on behalf of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

➤ **Launching of BS Programme in Applied Physics & Electronics**

A four year B.S. programme in Applied Physics & Electronics will be started in Spring 2009 under the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. This program is designed to provide opportunity for the students to progressively acquire a thorough knowledge in the basic concepts and skills of the central topics of Applied Physics and Electronics along with the required mathematical tools. The program of study also includes courses for improving and strengthening basic science background and acquainting the student with the socio-economic & historical background of Bangladesh. The total credit requirement for the degree is 130. Out of these 21 credits are courses from general education. Nineteen major area compulsory courses account for 57 credits. The students are required to complete 4 courses (6 credits) of Applied Physics and Electronics Labs and write a dissertation/report on a suitable thesis/project topic. The thesis/project work spread over the last two semesters will have a total of 3 credits. The students also are required to complete 15 credits choosing from several elective courses in their major field and 27 credits from outside their major specialization. They will undergo an internship program (1credit) being attached to R&D institutions, electronics and IT firms etc. They may also be required to take non-credit remedial courses in English (Eng091) if considered necessary.

➤ **New Faculty Members joining the MNS Department**

Ms. Sanjida Aktar and Mr. Al Amin Kabir joined the MNS Department as Lecturers in Physics

and Ms. Lopamudra Chakravarty joined as a Lecturer in Mathematics.

Departure for Higher Studies

- Mr. Iftekhar Mohammad Shafiqul Kalam, Faculty of MNS Department left for higher studies in Australia. He got an Endeavour Post Graduate Award 2008 scholarship sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) to study for Master's of Population Studies at Australian National University (ANU), Canberra, Australia.
- Ms. Fahmida Homaayra, Lecturer in Statistics at the MNS Department recently left for Master of Science (Research) Program at The University of New Brunswick, Canada. She has received institutional full scholarship to complete her degree.
- Mr. Md. Maruf Ahmed, Lecturer in Mathematics recently left for Master Program at The University Southern Illinois Carbondale, USA.

Miscellaneous

- The Department of MNS was shifted from the Civil Engineers Bhaban (6th floor) to the 15th floor of the Aarong House Building in May 2008. The various labs of the department were shifted to the 10th floor of the same building.
- From July 2008, Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor, Biotechnology Programme became *Advisor of BRAC University Cultural Club. Several Jalshas and Annual Cultural Programme were organized under her guidance.*
- Dr. Aparna Islam joined the editorial board of the African Journal of Plant Sciences on July 2008.

Publications

- A. A. Z. Ahmad, "*Quo Vadis Physica (Where Goest Thou Physics)?*", Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Physics Department, RU, 16-17 October, 2008

- Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, *Nonlinear Gravitoplasma Dynamics: Dark Solutions*, Abs. Bose Conference on Contemporary Physics, DU, p. 48, 19-21 March, 2008
- Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, *Physics in Fundamental Understanding of Nature*, The Independent, 5 March, 2008
- Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, *Future of Physics & Understanding of Nature*, The Independent, 12 March, 2008
- Sharmina Hussain, *Computational Fluid Dynamics Study Of Flow Behaviour In A Single Spacer Filled Membrane Module*, BRAC University Journal, Vol.1, p.1-8, 2008
- Islam A., *Preliminary Risk Assessment of a Novel Defensin Peptide from Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum L.*)*. Applied Biosafety, Vol. 13(4), p. 222-230, 2008
- Islam A., *Excision of Selectable Marker Gene from Transgenic Tobacco using the GM-gene-deletor System Regulated by a Heat-inducible Promoter*, Web <http://www.gnobbb.com>, 2008
- Islam A., *T-DNA-mediated Transfer of Agrobacterium Tumefaciens Chromosomal DNA into Plants*, Web <http://www.gnobbb.com>, 2008
- Islam A., *Enhancement of Biotechnology in Bangladesh: An Experience-sharing for International Collaboration*, Abs. Regulatory and Safety Issues in the Commercialization of Biotechnology Research in the Developing World, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2-4 December, 2008
- Islam A., *GM crops: Understanding the Nexus between Food Security and Biosafety*, Abs. Sixth Annual Scientific Conference of CVASU, Chittagong, Bangladesh, 4-6 March, 2008
- Md. Anisur Rahman Molla, *Carcinoma of Cervix in the Women of Bangladesh and its Dosimetry in the Case of HDR Brachytherapy*, Great Wall 2008 International Congress on Medical Physics & the 14th National Annual Meeting of Chinese Society of Medical Physics, Beijing, China, p. 146, 2008

SCHOOLS

BRAC Business School (BBS)

The mission of the BRAC Business School of BRAC University is to contribute to creation and dissemination of knowledge in the field of management & business administration and to improve management effectiveness of business and non business organizations in Bangladesh through excellent education, training, research, publications and advisory services. By following the mission, the BRAC Business School offers two core programs - BBA and MBA. A testimony to the quality of education of the school is the rising number of applicants for admission into the two programs. The school employed some of the finest faculty members in the country and supplements academic courses with inputs of guest lecturers by the business practitioners and assignments linked to business houses spread over the country. With the release of more graduates, BBA and MBA, the school now has a sizable number of alumni who are conduits of the school to the business world. Employers' interest on the school's output demonstrates a healthy growth. Putting all these efforts together the school is well poised towards becoming the leading business school in the region.

TEACHERS' PUBLICATIONS

- Chowdhury, A. and Chowdhury, S. P., "Prospect and Possibility of Introducing a Common Currency in SAARC Countries", BRAC University Journal, Vol. VI, No. 2, December 2008
- Dutta, P. and Bose, S., "Corporate Environmental Reporting on the Internet in Bangladesh: An Exploratory Study", International Review of Business Research Papers, 4 (3), pp. 138-150, 2008
- Newaz, M. K. & Afza, R., "Factors Determining The Presence of Glass Ceiling And Influencing Women Career Advancement in Bangladesh", BRAC University Journal, Vol. 5, No. 1, 2008
- Newaz, M. K., "Comparing The Performances of Time Series Models For Forecasting Exchange Rates" BRAC University Journal, Vol. V, No. 2, 2008
- Thanha, M., Khan, M. Chowdhury, A., and Hossain, M., "Shoppers' attitude toward grocery retailers - a comparative study between modern grocery stores and traditional grocery stores of Dhaka City". Journal of Business Studies, University of Dhaka, Vol. XXIX, pp. 29-41, June 2008

Conference Papers:

- Ahmed, S. S. S., Newaz, M. K., & Akhtar, A., "Contributing Factors For Faculty Job



Satisfaction and Job Stress of Private Universities In Dhaka, Bangladesh”, The 5th International conference on Business Management (ICBM) 2008, Faculty of Management Studies & Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

- Chowdhury, S. P., & Chowdhury H.A., "Does Executive Compensation Depend on Organization Performance and Size? An Analysis of Banking Companies Listed In The Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited, Bangladesh". The 3rd International Research Conference on Management and Finance 2008, Faculty of Management & Finance, University of Dhaka.
- Chowdhury, A. and Chowdhury, Suman P., "Impact of capital Structure on Firm's Value; evidence from Bangladesh", International Conference on Management and Finance (ICMF 2008), University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, December 2008.
- Chowdhury, A., Masuduzzaman M., "Circuit Breaker; Development of Testable Hypothesis and Political Economy - Lesson from Bangladesh Stock Market", Fifth International Conference on Business Management (ICBM 2008), University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka, pp. 586-601, December 2008.
- Newaz M. K, Akhtar A. and Ahmed S. S. S. "An Application of SERVQUAL model in Fast food industry in Bangladesh”, IRCMF - 2008, Faculty of Management & Finance, University of Colombo., Sri Lanka, March 2008.

Survey Report:

- Newaz, M.K. and Ahmed S. S. S. "Survey on Foreign Language Program” prepared for the Center for Foreign Language (CFL), BRAC University.
- Newaz, M.K. and Akhtar, A. "Survey on BRAC University Canteen” prepared for the Chairperson of BU Cafeteria Committee, BRAC University.

Training Program: Anup Chowdhury, Suman Paul Chowdhury, and Edward Prabir Mandol were attended seven weeks training program on "Applied Research methodology in Business, 2008' organized by Bureau of Business Research, University of Dhaka.

International Certification: Anup Chowdhury accredited with distinction in 5th Micro Finance Trainer of the Trainer (MFTOT5) by the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADB) and Tokyo Development Learning Center, World Bank, under the agreement with United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in 2008.

Champion of Battle of Minds 2008 Competition

BRAC Business School of BRAC University won the first prize in 'Battle of Minds 2008' competition organized by British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB). A total of 16 universities took part in the competition which involved students presenting business plans based on a case study. The panel of judges was comprised of Iftekharul Islam, Managing Partner, Asian Tiger Capital Partners, Akhtar Sanjida Kasem, Partner, A Qasem & Co., and Syed Imtiaz Faruque, Head of HR, BATB. BATB Chairman Golam Moinuddin was also present at the program. The team members of BRAC University were Anandi Kabir, Asaf-ud-Daula, Sadia Hossian and Sabrina Ali.

STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES

➤ Networking Session with AB Bank

A networking session with AB Bank was organized for the BBA and the MBA students. Mr. MA Abdullah, Head of Change Management & HR discussed about AB Bank's revamped identity with its new logo. Mr. Abdullah also spoke about the MTO recruitment policy and AB Bank's expectations from the graduates.

➤ Professional Skills Development Program for the MBAs

A five-day Professional Skills Development Program (Residential) for the BRACU MBA

students was organized at TARC, Savar from Feb 9-14, 2008. The main focus of the program was to help students develop a professional image before they start job hunting. This practical program offered students tools and strategies to job hunt with confidence, write Resumes/CVs, be able to face an interview board confidently and enhance abilities to be an effective communicator, keeping in mind about the etiquettes. The program kicked off with an ice-breaking session and the theme was 'Positive Attitude'. In order to help students identify and connect to BRAC, half a day was allocated towards learning about BRAC's values and its programs. The half a day session ended with a video called 'A New Horizon'. The rest of week was dedicated towards learning about appropriate professional appearances, etiquettes & protocol in the professional arena, tips and techniques of CV writing, business ethics, case analysis, business correspondences, business presentation and interview skills. The program ended with a section on Career Success Planning. The program was initiated by Professor Iftekhar Ghani Chowdhury, Dean BRAC Business School and coordinated by Professor Mojib U Ahmed, MBA Program Director assisted by Mr. Satyajit Modak, DCO MBA Program. Amongst the resource persons there were: Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro VC, BRACU, Mr Mehboob Rahman, Visiting Faculty, MBA, Anup Chowdhury, Lecturer BBS, Mr Sajedul Haque, Head of Writing Lab, Mr. Dominic Bennett, Visiting Faculty, BBA & MBA and Farzana Choudhury, Sr. Asst. Director, Career Services office. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury graced the occasion by spending an afternoon and welcoming such an initiative for the first time for the MBA students.

CLUBS' AND FORUMS' ACTIVITIES

➤ BRAC EDF's Rendezvous with Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed

Entrepreneurship Development Forum (EDF) of BRAC Business School, BRAC University organized the mega event "Meet the Best Social Entrepreneur" on the 18th June, 2008 at BRAC Centre INN. This was the first time ever in the

history of BRAC University, or any other university for the matter to award Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed and commemorating him as the Best Social Entrepreneur of the World. Accompanied by BRAC University's honorable Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed and the honorable Dean of BRAC Business School Professor Iftekhar Ghani Chowdhury, Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed shared words of encouragement and his experiences with the students present there. The function was anchored by EDF's third President, Abdullah Tahir Chowdhury, and the Writing and Publication Director Rudmila Ahmed and the Head Facilitator of the event was Iftekhar-Ul-Karim, International Relations and Communications Director of EDF. BRAC Entrepreneurship Development Forum is proud to have hosted and organized such an event, as they have brought one of the best social entrepreneurs of this world to the BRACU students. The students present at the gathering were given the opportunity to personally interact with Mr. Abed. They asked questions about entrepreneurial activities both in home and abroad, shared their feelings, and extracted information from the dialogue. As EDF builds leaders to lead the future, it sets an example to achieve by inviting a true social entrepreneur to inspire us all.

➤ BIZBEE Quiz Competition, 2008

In the contemporary world to achieve the competitive advantages, away from the mainstream bookish culture a dynamic student should need to have an adequate knowledge about his/her surroundings like- current business and economy condition, geography, world heritage etc. As the consequence of such a flickering vision, BIZ BEE (BRAC University Business Club) organized a quiz competition titled - "Biz Quiz Competition, 2008" on August 07, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. in UB 104, BRAC University Campus. In total 8 teams (with 3 students in each team) from different departments had participate in this Quiz Competition. The questions criteria were- contemporary business and economy, geography, sports, history, culture, literature etc. From the initial round among the 8 teams, in

total 4 teams were able to compete in the final round. The members of the Champion Team are- Md. Rizwan Shamim, Arif Nasir, Ashiqur Rahman. The members of the Runner's up team are- Khondokar Fahim Mostakim, Fatima Akhter Sumi, Istiaque Ahmed Mallick. Honorable Pro-Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University- Dr. Saleh Uddin Ahmed, Dean of BRAC Business School (BBS) Dr. Iftekhhar Ghani Chowdhury attended the program and the faculty member of the BBS department, were in the panel of judges. At the end of the program, honorable Dean of BBS gave the awards and crests to the Champion team.

➤ **Grand reception organized by BIZ BEE and EDF to congratulate the Battle of Mind 2008 Champs**

This striking event was organized by BRAC University Business Club (Biz Bee), Entrepreneur Development Forum (EDF) and BRAC Business School (BBS) on 13th November 2008 at BRAC University Indoor Games Room. Vice Chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Pro - Vice Chancellor Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Dean of BBS Professor Iftekhhar Ghani Chowdhury and the Management Trainee HR of BAT Mr. Shafwan Ahsan were present and made the event more fruitful with their precious words. Microphone check, PowerPoint ready, Camera on action and everything else were all set. Everyone was waiting eagerly to congratulate the champs who have proved that BRAC Business School (BBS) really stands for Best, Brilliant and Success. Holding a great self-confidence and enormous happiness on the face, the four stars of the event made a grand entrance. Except for reverberation of appreciations and applaud there wasn't any other sound. Sabrina Ali, Sadia Hussain, Asaf-Ud-Doula & Anondi Kabir. From the names you



can easily identify who were the luminaries. Yes! Without any doubt, they are the champs of the Battle of Mind 2008 arranged by British American Tobacco (BAT). And Battle of Mind doesn't require any prologue. The event begun with a warm congratulation speech given by one of the students of BBS on behalf of all the students and faculty members. Then again after a special short speech given by the Dean of BBS the long waited moment came up. The champs shared their journey through a mesmerizing presentation with us. Every single person who was present there was spelled bound. The presentation of the champs and their beautiful, talented and outstanding plan left no doubt and proved it once again that they are the true deserving one.

➤ **BIZ BEE's Orientation Program for the Freshers 08 Inauguration of Club Website**

On the 12th February 2008, BIZ BEE organized a Fresher's Welcoming Session for the Spring 2008 semester. The honorable Dean of BRAC Business School, Mr. Iftekhhar Gani Chowdhury was the chief guest in the program. The Advisor & Co-Advisor of this club Ms. Syeda Shaharbanu Shahbazi Ahmed and Ms. Sabina Khan along with the existing BIZ BEE members, were present in this charming program. A regular BIZ BEE member Mr. Abdullah Tahir Chowdhury introduced BIZ BEE to the newcomers and just after that our Dean did the official inauguration of the BIZ BEE website (www.bizbee.tk). He also presented a short but precious speech where he praised the earlier activities of BIZ BEE and added some words of encouragement for the freshers. After that another two members of Biz Bee explained the various aspects and activities of this club to date and answered the queries of freshers. Then, the advisor & co-advisor in their pithy but exhilarating speech emphasized on team spirit, loyalty, dedication and self-confidence. Moreover, they gave away prizes to the winners of instant quiz competition that was held on last Club Fair-Spring 2008. In addition to that, to make the freshers feel like part of the club our advisors also assigned some work to

them under qualified mentors who have been working for BIZ BEE for years. In all, this was a successful interactive session for all BIZ BEE members, which once again boosted the unity of the club.

➤ **BIZ BEE Seminar on CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility)**

BIZ BEE Along with the cooperation of BBS Faculty, Ms. Afsana Akhter arranged a seminar on CSR on 13th March, 2008 at 2:00 PM at UB403. Ms. Mononita Syed Haq, Senior Manager, Unilever Bangladesh conducted the seminar. After giving a brief background of Unilever Bangladesh, Ms. Haq demonstrated the role, scope and the importance of CSR in an organization in the society. Then she directly focused on the CSR activities so far conducted by different brands of Unilever Bangladesh. Some of these activities are Lifeboy Floating Hospital, Close-up One- in search of singers, Fair & Lovely Scholarship for poor students, Scholarship for meritorious student along with British Council, establishing Asian University for Women and lots more. Among the audience, Ms. Afsana Akhter, Lecturer BRAC Business School and Ms. Syeda Shaharbanu Shahbazi Ahmed, Advisor, BIZ BEE, were also present. The video clippings within the presentation helped the students and all the others present to expand their horizon of understanding the topic. The Question- Answer session at the end of the seminar was the most interesting part where the audience could know more about the CSR and Branding of Unilever. The goal of this informative event was accomplished and the seminar ended with our regular closing formality of refreshment.

➤ **Alumni Event Organized By BIZ BEE**

On 24th November, 08 BIZ BEE the Business Club of BRAC University has organized a gripping exceptional seminar "Want to be successful?? They are coming to show you the Path." Exceptional in a sense that for the very first time this kind of seminar was held in BRAC University history where the guests were none other than two of the BRAC alumnae. They were Md. Tajdin Hossain currently working at BATB

(British American Tobacco) as a Territory Officer, also have been awarded as the "Best Territory Officer" last year and Mr. Ahaduzzaman currently working at NBP (National Bank of Pakistan) as a Senior Officer of Corporate Banking. Since they are very much flourishing in the corporate world it was assumed that they would be a very good guide for the students to know how to move forward. And the assumption was proved by the fruitful participation of the students. The venue was almost full. The event was truly abundant as per our respectable Dean Iftekhar Ghani Chowdhury and Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed. BIZ BEE is looking forward of holding such event again where students actually can get to know information which truly helps them to inspire for moving forward.

STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

➤ **BRACU Students Negotiated at HPAIR 2008 (Harvard Business Conference), KL, Malaysia**

From a highly competitive pool of International Applicants, Iftekhar Ul Karim and Sabbir Hossain Chowdhury (BRAC Business School) were selected to participate and perform in the Harvard Project for Asians and International Relations (HPAIR), Business Conference 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 14-17 August, 2008. It is one of the mega events of Harvard University in Asia where selected students and young professionals worldwide come together to interact and learn about most dynamic areas of Asian business from the most prominent industry leaders. The conference seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of the current economic trends in Asia and create a forum for discussion of new developments in the region.

➤ **BRACU Student receives Symbian Award (London) 1000 pound**

"The next wave of Smartphone innovation: Issues and opportunities with Smartphone technologies" was the overall theme for

Symbian's (UK) first student essay contest. During the months of summer and early autumn 2008, students worldwide worked on essays addressing aspects of possible breakthrough applications and markets for Smartphones. Essays received were evaluated by Symbian judges for their degree of relevance, insight, clarity, readability, originality, evidence provided, and technical expertise. Numerous thought provoking and intelligent entries were received which made the judging process difficult. Finally, Iftekhar Ul Karim, student of BRAC Business School, BRAC University became one of the winners of the Symbian Contest (London) and received a prize of GBP 1000, for his innovative essay, "Opportunities with Smartphone technologies for the base of the pyramid." Iftekhar's essay challenges readers to consider noble uses of Smartphones for users in the so-called 'base of the pyramid' - the four billion poorest people on the planet.

➤ **BRACU Students presented their projects at University of Witten, Germany**

Oikos conducted its 5th oikos Winter School at the University of Witten/Herdecke, Germany and brought together students and future decision makers from around the world in an interactive think tank on sustainable economics and management. Under the patronage of the European Parliament President, Prof. Dr. Hans-Gert Pottering, three students from BRAC Business School, BRAC University got selected for this effective coaching session and represented Bangladesh as sustainability project apprentices. Sadia Naureen Huq presented her project on "Water Purification & Storage Systems in Bangladesh", Sabbir Hossain Chowdhury presented his project on, "Emerging Bangladesh" and Iftekhar Ul Karim (Student-Rep, oikos-Dhaka) presented his project on "Micro-Sustainability for the Bottom of the Pyramids (Focus: Delta)". The students received certificates as recognition for their apprenticeship. German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) Bangladesh sponsored the entire tour.

➤ **BRAC Business School Competed in the Final Round of YBD Challenge, University of Oxford (UK)**

The Youth Business Development (YBD) competition, run by Said Business School, University of Oxford is a social enterprise empowering young people to think critically about how they can make the world a better place, and then provides them with the opportunity and tools to bring about change. The team BRAC Business School comprising Samia Mahjabeen Khan, Sabbir Hossain Chowdhury and Iftekhar Ul Karim (Team Leader) by degrees became one of the finalists with their project "One District One Product". The project dealt with a fully district-categorized commercial zone with a 'T+T' approach (merging Tradition with Technology) and offered pragmatic solutions to inflation, market intermediaries and food crisis. Oxford University MBA Mentor of the project was Mr. Joby Babu and the Local Liaison Mentor of the project was Mr. Md. Khaleq Newaz, Lecturer of BRAC Business School, BRAC University.

FACILITIES REFURBISHED

To create a corporate environment within the school, the conference room, the computer lab, faculty room and related facilities have been refurbished. Students can also avail wireless internet within the premises of the school. The support services combined with excellent faculty profile makes BRAC Business School a very desirable place of learning and grooming.

OPPORTUNITIES

The school held an enviable record of full placement and number of internship offers exceeding the number of applicants in 2008. It is expected that with more floor space available from next year the school will be able to accommodate the current students more professionally as well as open up some of the much needed programs such as the Executive MBA.

School of Law

Baby Milk Safety Awareness Seminar

The issue of melamine contamination in baby milk created both national and international headlines around September and October of 2008. Consequently, on October 25, 2008, the School of Law held a seminar titled “*How Safe are our Infants? Emerging Legal and Scientific Issues Relating to Baby Milk.*” The seminar was attended by a large number of medical practitioners, legal and scientific professionals, and government officials.

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, the Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, inaugurated the seminar, followed by opening remarks from Dr. Shahdeen Malik (Director, SoL). Papers on relevant issues were presented by Dr. Shakil Ahmed, (Asst Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Sir Salimullah Medical college), Ms. Mala Khan (Scientific Officer, BCSIR) and Dr. Tureen Afroz (Assistant Professor, SoL, BRACU). The seminar ended with a lengthy question and answer session among the audience, the panel of speakers, and members of the media.

Moot Court Initiative

The School of Law held a three-day moot court workshop during the first week of January. A total of 12 (twelve) law students attended the workshop. The SoL faculty provided training on various aspects of mooting, including legal drafting, issue spotting and analysis, presentation techniques, and courtroom etiquette. Following the training, an open competition was held among the students to select a team to participate in the International Arbitration Moot competition in Bangalore, India. Three students -- Izmet Nashra Khan, M. Sanjeeb Hossain and Mokabbir Sarkar – made the team.

After over two months of intense training under the supervision of SoL faculty members, the Moot Court team, along with coach Lecturer

Mahmud Karim, left for India on April 7th, 2009. A total of 28 (twenty eight) teams from England, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh took part in this competition. The team from BRAC University was the sole contestant from Bangladesh. M. Sanjeeb Hossain of the SoL was adjudged the Second- Best speaker in the entire competition, out of nearly sixty individual contestants.

Ongoing Copyright Law Project

Copyright Seminar in February

In collaboration with DRIK art gallery and *Chobi Mela*, the School of Law held a seminar on February 3, 2009 on copyright law and its application. Mr. Rupert Grey, a famous British lawyer who had represented British newspapers and Hollywood movie stars, was the Guest of Honor. Students and faculty members of various departments, along with a large number of artists and photographers – both local and international -- attended the seminar. Mahmud Karim, Lecturer of the SoL, presented a paper on basic copyright principles and their application in Bangladesh. It was followed by a presentation by Mr. Grey drawing upon his personal experiences and reflections as an international copyright lawyer. Dr. Shahdeen Malik, Director of the SoL, acted as the moderator, and took part in the ensuing question and answer session.

Follow-up Activities

The photographers and other artists attending the above-mentioned seminar requested that the School of Law hold a follow-up workshop to advise them on their individual copyright issues. Consequently, the SoL held a follow-up discussion and *pro bono* legal consultation session on March 12, 2009. In consultation with Dr. Shahdeen Malik, Lecturer Mahmud Karim provided legal advice to the participants. Law students interested in copyright and other intellectual property issues also attended the workshop.

The participants expressed a strong desire to establish a copyright society to help protect their legal rights, which are often exploited in Bangladesh, and asked the School of Law for

help. As a result, a plan is now underway to establish a “legal clinic” at the SoL where, under the guidance of the faculty members, law students will work with the photographers, musicians, and other artists on an ongoing basis to help resolve their copyright related legal issues. The next workshop of this initiative is scheduled to take place on May 28, 2009.

Faculty Members Present Papers in Hong Kong

At the time of this publication, Assistant Professors Dr. Saira R. Khan and Dr. Tureen Afroz are in Hong Kong, attending the 6th Annual Conference arranged by ASLI (Asian Law Institute) to be held on May 29th and 30th, 2009. Dr. Khan is presenting a paper on “*CEDAW and Women's Migration*,” while Dr. Afroz's paper is titled “*Imported Baby Milk Market: Regulatory Issues and Reform in Bangladesh*.”

School of Public Health

JANUARY

➤ **Orientation Day**

Orientation day for the fourth batch of MPH students was held on 5th January at Savar TARC. The students were introduced to faculty, staff at Savar and the MPH programme. The Dean, Professors and other faculties of the school were present on this day. There were 30 students in the fourth batch, with 12 international students coming from 11 different countries including Afghanistan, Ethiopia, India, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tanzania, The Netherlands, Uganda, and the United States of America. There were 18 students from Bangladesh. Among this group, 50% were medical graduates.

➤ **Public Health Modules**

This first module of the MPH programme began on 6th January and ended on 15th January at Savar campus. The course was co-taught by Dr. Alayne Adams, Dr. Richard Cash, Dr.

Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dr. Damian Walker and Dr. Steve Luby.

The second module of the MPH programme began on 20th January and ended on 31st January 2008 at Savar campus. The course was co-taught by Dr. Sjaak van der Geest, Dr. Shahaduz Zaman and Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid.

➤ **Healthcare Financing**

The School successfully completed the capacity building training in Health Care Financing for the second batch of 16 UHFP Officials (6-17 Jan). The World Health Organization provided financial support for the course. The course dealt with the dynamics of decision-making in allocation of financial resources for health and discussed the fundamental principles of health economics as well as that of healthcare financing in the context of Bangladesh. Professor Anwar Islam coordinated the course.

➤ **Health Systems Research and Development (HSRD)**

The School started (Feb. 17) a short course on Health Systems Research and Development (HSRD) in collaboration with ICDDR,B. Dr. Anwar Islam was the primary resource person for this training course and provided overall leadership and coordinated the Health Systems Research and Development course.

➤ **Executive Certificate in Public Health Management Programme**

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) approved the School's proposal for strengthening the capacity of public sector health professionals through a 10-week long Executive Certificate in Public Health Management programme.

➤ **Writers without Borders Workshop**

The James P Grant School of Public Health organised the Writers without Borders workshop on January 6 and 7 and January 11 and 12. The participants were mainly MPH students (previous batches) and some staff from RED, BRAC and ICDDR, B. The workshop was facilitated by teachers from the USA - Dr. Tim

Brooks and Dr. Omar Khan. The workshop covered the following: review progress, evaluate writings, share lessons learned from each other to write scientific information for a general audience and for peer-reviewed type of journals. The venue of the workshop was Niketan at the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP). The workshop was coordinated by Drs. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Farah Mahjabeen and Kausar Iqbal at the School of Public Health, BRAC University.

➤ **EU ASIA LINK Programme Preparatory Workshop**

The James P Grant School of Public Health hosted a preparatory workshop in Rajendrapur from January 21-23, 2008 as the first activity for the EU ASIA LINK Programme. Partner institutions, including the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (India), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK), Karolinska Institute (Sweden), and the University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), participated in the two day workshop followed by a field trip to BRAC's microfinance, education, legal, and health projects in Manikonj. The partners also met with the current MPH students in Savar to learn about their backgrounds and thoughts on the dynamics between students coming from different academic trainings. Robin Heffernan, Research Associate of the James P Grant School of Public Health organized the workshop and coordinated the EU grant at the School.

➤ **Awards**

On January 24th, 2008, James P Grant School of Public Health (SPH) signed a contract with Save the Children USA, to receive funds for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM) 913 package for Building and Strengthening the Technical and Institutional Capacities of Government, NGOs, and Implementing Partners. The School was the lead partner in a consortium with Population Council, PIACT Bangladesh, NIPSOM, and Concerned Women for Family Development (CWFd) and was responsible for the overall management of the 913 package and for two of

the five activities. BSPH worked in collaboration with Population Council to develop standardized tools, guidelines, and protocols for targeting HIV prevention interventions. It also worked with NIPSOM to develop and implement training courses in HIV related issues for GFATM implementing partners.

Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dean of the James P Grant School of Public Health, was conferred the PESON Oration Medal for his work in the field of maternal and new born health by PESON, the most prestigious and respected professional association of top health experts in Nepal in January 2008.

Dr. Farhana Sultana, Research Associate at the James P Grant School of Public Health was awarded the 'Endeavour Postgraduate Award 2008' by The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Australia to pursue her postgraduate studies in Epidemiology at the University of Melbourne, Australia.

➤ **Faculty News**

Dr. Shahaduz Zaman, Coordinator of MPH programme at the James P Grant School of Public Health visited the University of Amsterdam to chair a module titled "Historical Social & Cultural Dimensions of Infectious Diseases" of the Medical Anthropology Department, University of Amsterdam. The course started on 7th January and ended on 18th January 2008.

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor attended the Annual Planning of the Realising Rights Research Programme Consortium on 23-25 January 2008, IDS, UK.

Ilias Mahmud, Research Associate attended the National Conference on Emerging Issues in Public Health 10-13, January 2008 at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. In the conference he gave a presentation on "Sexual and Reproductive Health Concerns of Married Men and Access to Health Services in a Rural Area of Bangladesh". Dr. Farhana Sultana's

abstract titled “Urban TB control programme of BRAC in Bangladesh-The Challenges” was accepted and published in the abstract book of the same conference.

Dr. Kausar Iqbal, Research Associate attended the "National Dialogue on Women's Empowerment" on 21st January 2008 at BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. The event was organized by Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme, South Asia.

➤ **Harvard Students' Visit**

A group of Harvard students visited the fourth batch of MPH students at the Savar campus on 6th January 2006. During their visit they observed a session of the MPH class and had discussion with the students and faculties to share and exchange ideas and knowledge.

FEBRUARY

➤ **Courses**

In February the module "Anthropological Approach to Public Health" and "Qualitative Research Methods” were completed. The first course was taught by Dr. Sjaak Van der Geest and Dr. Shahaduz Zaman. The Qualitative Research Methods course was conducted by Dr. Shahaduz Zaman and Dr. Sabina F Rashid.

On the last day of the Qualitative Research Methods course, students presented their short exploratory qualitative research on several public health issues conducted in Kakabo village, Savar.

➤ **Other Courses and Training**

Health Systems Research and Development (HSRD)

The first phase of the short course on Health Systems Research and Development (HSRD) was jointly organized by the School and ICDDR,B. Second phase of the course begin on March 23. The overall goal of the course was to strengthen the Bangladesh health system through capacity building of the public health professionals.

➤ **Faculty News**

Staff Update

Razia Sultana joined the school of Public Health on the 3rd of February 2008. She is a Medical doctor and was a student of the 3rd MPH batch of the school. She passed her MBBS from Gulf Medical College, Ajman, UAE in 2005. Razia worked as a Junior House Officer in Mafraq Hospital, Abu Dhabi; UAE. She underwent a post graduate training in Internal Medicine.

Hailey MacEachern joined the school as an intern in February. She holds a BS in Biology from the College of Idaho. After completing her BS, she joined the Peace Corps and served two years in the Republic of Moldova, where she taught Health Education to class 5 through 11 and facilitated the development of awareness seminars on the topics of Domestic Violence, Breast Cancer, and Human Trafficking. She received a Fellowship from George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services (GWU SPHHS) Department of Global Health to complete her Masters Thesis for a Masters of Public Health with a Certificate in Global Health Promotion and to provide practical service to James P. Grant School of Public Health with the aim of increasing capacity for JPG SPH and to facilitate the formation of a stronger partnership between GWU SPHHS and JPGSPH.

Mahrugh Mohiuddin attended a workshop from Jan 30-Feb 1 on Strategic Communication in Washington, DC, organized by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the Global Health grantees. The aim of this workshop was to equip the participants with a skills and a tool to design programs and messages to effectively reach their target audience and bring about the intended results or behavior change.

Dr. Anwar Islam and Dr. Tanvir Ahmed attended a workshop on "Designing Learning Interventions that Last" offered by the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) in association with the World Bank Institute and the Sri Lanka Distance Learning Center, Colombo, Sri Lanka from February 11-15, 2008.

The overall goal of this work shop was to enable participants to design effective interactive learning interventions using what is called 'blended' learning techniques. Participants from all the countries of South Asia (except Maldives) attended the workshop.

Dr. Razia Sultana and Tarique Md. Nurul Huda, attended a workshop on 'Bioethics', at ICDDR,B during February 12-14, 2008, taught by Dr. Richard Cash (Harvard University) and Dr. Amar Jasani, (CEHAT, India).

MARCH

➤ **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.

APRIL

➤ **Courses**

The modules Epidemiology and Biostatistics were completed in April. The Biostatistics course was taught by Dr. Ataharul Islam and Dr. Wasimul Bari visiting faculty from Dhaka University. The course on Epidemiology was taught by adjunct faculty Dr. Shams El Arifeen and Dr. Kazi Mizanur Rahman. Tarique Mohammad Nurul Huda were the teaching assistant for both courses. The Health Systems Management module commenced on 27th April which was facilitated by Dr. Anwar Islam, who was assisted by Dr. Tanvir Ahmed.

➤ **Mixed Methods Research Workshop**

A workshop on mixed methods research was organized by the Centre for Qualitative Research Methodology (CQRM), James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University for three days, 28-30 April 2008 in BRAC, TARC, Savar. The CQRM is a cooperating site of the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology, University of Alberta. This workshop marks the first activity of this centre and perhaps the launch of a new initiative for generating knowledge in this region of the world. The focus of this workshop was to understand mixed method approach that combines qualitative and quantitative methods and to learn how to use the mixed method tools for public health research.

There were eleven participants from JPGSPH, BRAC-RED and University of Heidelberg. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Manuela De Allegri from Department of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health, University of Heidelberg, Germany.

➤ **Faculty News**

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid participated in Sexuality and Rights training organized by CREA from

April 7-14, 2008 in New York, USA. Her travel was funded by International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC).

MAY

➤ **MPH Programme**

The MPH students completed their Health Systems Management Course this month. The course was taught by Dr. Anwar Islam and Dr. Tanvir Ahmed served as a teaching assistant for the course. The students commenced their course on Health Economics and Health Care Financing this month which began on 25th May and continued till 5th June. The course was coordinated by Kent Ranson, and Damian Walker. Shafiun Nahin was the teaching assistant in the course.

➤ **Other Courses and Training**

Workshop on Quality Management in Health

James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University with Technical support from the University of Heidelberg, Germany organized a two-day workshop on Quality Management in Health, at BRAC Centre, Mohakhali, Dhaka on the 3rd and 4th May, 2009. GTZ Bangladesh sponsored the workshop. Apart from BRAC, representatives from DGHS, NIPORT, Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, ICDDR,B, Pathfinder International, Engender Health, CRP, Marie Stopes Clinic and a few other International Organizations were present at the workshop. The two-day workshop was followed by a three-day curriculum development meeting. The ultimate goal of the workshop was to introduce capacity development training module.

Training on Evaluation of Development Programme

As a part of the evaluation capacity development effort, James P. Grant School of Public Health organized a training on Evaluation of Development Programme at BRAC Centre from 18-22nd May, 2008. The aim of the week-long training was to provide the key concepts and

skills needed to develop, manage, and carry out evaluations, specific topics included: the major stages of evaluation, evaluation questions and indicators, major evaluation designs, major and alternative data collection methods, and ways to disseminate and use evaluation results. As a means to practice and apply these generic concepts, participants developed monitoring and evaluation plans for existing BRAC projects. About 20 participants from BRAC attended the training. Participants were from Social Development Programme, BRAC Education Programme, BRAC Development Programme, Wash Programme, BRAC Health, Monitoring Division, BRAC donor Liaison office, Research and Evaluation Division, Development Studies Programme, BRAC School of Public Health.

Training on Engendering the Health System in Bangladesh

A short training on Engendering the Health System in Bangladesh started from 25th May and continued till 5th June. There were about twenty participants. Nominations were sought from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Directorate of Health Services, Directorate of Family Planning, National Nutrition Programme, Health Economics Unit and from Gender, NGO and stakeholder participation unit. They were bearing the status of senior assistant secretary / deputy secretary.

➤ **MOU Signed Between BSPH and Nagasaki University, Japan**

The James P. Grant School of Public Health and Nagasaki University, Japan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 30th May, 2008 to promote research, education, and capacity building especially in the area of health development between the two institutions. This agreement was signed by Professor Hiroshi Saito, President of Nagasaki University and Professor A. Mushtaque R. Chowdhury, Dean, BRAC School of Public Health.

➤ Faculty News

Dr. Kausar Iqbal, Research Associate at the school, attended a workshop on Evaluation of Development Programme' from 18th to 22nd May, 2008 at BRAC centre, Mohakhali, Dhaka.

Robin Heffernan, coordinator of the EU-Asia Link Project, attended Training on Project Cycle Management/Economic and Financial Analysis in Dhaka from 11-15 May 2008, which was funded and hosted by the European Commission.

➤ New Staff

Mrityunjoy Das joined as the Academic and Administrative Officer in May. Mr. Das completed Honors and Masters in International Relations from University of Dhaka. He worked as Executive in Public Relations and Administration Department in Chinese Company at Beijing, China. He also worked as Senior Officer in NMCI (Bangladesh) Ltd., which is a subsidiary of National marine Consultants Inc., USA.

Shafiun Nahin Shimul joined the school as a lecturer on 15th of May, 2008. He completed his B.S.S. Honours in 2004 and Masters in Economics 2005. He also completed his M.S.S. in Health Economics in 2007 from Dhaka University. Before joining BSPH, he worked as a lecturer in the Department of Economics, Stamford University, Bangladesh. His areas of interest are cost-effectiveness of different health programmes and Health Care Financing.

Eram Y. Cooper joined the school as a Project Support Staff on the 18th of May. She completed her Bachelor of Communication (Honors) from Monash University, Malaysia Campus. She also completed her Post-graduation in International Relations from the same University in 2006. Her dissertation was based on "Social mobilization and the issue of Urban Working Children in Bangladesh". She previously worked as a Research Assistant at the School of Arts in Monash University, Malaysia.

➤ MPH Programme

The MPH students completed their Health

Economics and Health Care Financing course this month which began on May 25th, 2008 and was completed on June 5th, 2008. The course was taught by Kent Ranson and Damian Walker. Shafiun N Shimul served as a teaching assistant for the course. The students also completed the module on Environment, Health and Climate Change, which began on June 8th, 2008 and was completed on June 26th, 2008. The course was taught by Bilqis Amin Hoque, Joe Graziano as the main faculty. Tanvir Ahmed served as a teaching assistant for the course.

JUNE

➤ Cultural Evening by MPH 4th Batch at Markuly Auditorium

The 4th Batch MPH students organized a farewell cultural program on June 22nd, 2008, at Markuly Auditorium, Savar TARC. The students dedicated the cultural evening to bid good bye to Savar TARC on the eve of successful completion of the first part of their MPH Program. All members of the BRAC School of Public Health (BSPH) were invited along with their families.

It was a multi-cultural presentation featuring harmony of different cultural streams. Both undergraduate and postgraduate students of various nationalities took part in the program. MPH Program Coordinator, Dr. Shahaduz Zaman performed a touchy song featuring the never ending grievances and sufferings of the underprivileged people. The event ended with a dinner party.

➤ Students Participate in Budget Symposium

Taufiqul Islam Joarder and Nuzhat Chowdhury of MPH 4th batch, with the mentorship of Shafiun N Shimul, Lecturer, BSPH, presented their analysis of the health sector budget for the fiscal year 2008-2009 proposed by the Government at a Budget Analysis Symposium held on June 16th, 2008. This event was jointly organized by Dhaka University Management Club and Profile of Bengal - an online archive of Bengal's history. Seven teams from four

universities participated at the Symposium. Their recommendation was reviewed by an expert panel and was submitted for consideration to the Finance Advisor.

➤ **Workshop on Engendering the Health System in Bangladesh: Challenges and Prospects**

A workshop on engendering the health system in Bangladesh was conducted from May 25th - June 5th, 2008. With an objective of strengthening the health system further through capacity building of the health professionals, "Engendering the Health System in Bangladesh: Challenges and Prospects", was a unique short term workshop organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), with overall supported from the BSPH. It was the first collaborative effort between the School and the MOHFW. Dr. Anwar Islam, Professor, BSPH, Professor S M Humayun Kabir, Assistant Professor of Public Administration, University of Chittagong took the course forward. Sabiha Sadik, assisted him in teaching. Mr. Md Jahangir, Joint Chief and in charge of Health Economics Unit, MOHFW, was the overall Coordinator of the workshop.

The workshop concentrated on issues such as: concept of engendering; key issues in engendering the health system in Bangladesh; different approaches in engendering; stakeholders and their role in this process; understanding and combating gender-based violence and other relevant issues.

The workshop ended with a certificate distribution ceremony attended by the Secretary of Health, Hon'ble Dr. AKM Zafar Ullah Khan who also presented the certificates. Dr. AMR Chowdhury, Dean of BSPH, Faruque Ahmed, Head of the BRAC Health Program and Dr. Abbas Bhuiya, Head, Social and Behavioural Science Unit, ICDDR,B joined the Secretary at the Certificate giving ceremony.

➤ **Knowledge Fair**

A knowledge fair was organized on June 7th, 2008 at the BRAC University .The purpose of

the Knowledge Fair was to bring together potential supervisors and the MPH students so that they can interact and exchange knowledge about each other's research interests. The fair also served as an opportunity to share with the students, drafts of the thesis guideline.

➤ **Launch of State of Health in Bangladesh 2007**

BRAC School of Public Health, which acts as the secretariat of the Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW), organized the launching ceremony of a report titled "Health workforce in Bangladesh: Who Constitutes the Healthcare System?" on June 14th , 2008 at the Sasakawa Auditorium of ICDDR,B. The study was conducted and the report was prepared by the Bangladesh Health Watch.



Bangladesh Health Watch is a civil society initiative. It was formed with the objective of monitoring Bangladesh's progress towards achievement of the goal of good health for all its citizens.

➤ **Seminar**

Dr. Raihan Jamil from the Purdue University, USA presented a seminar on 'Informative Presentation', on June 29th, 2008 at the BSPH Conference Room. Members of the BSPH attended the talk and gained an insight on the importance and the process of presentational and Informative speaking.

➤ **Faculty News**

The School said goodbye to three of its members in June: Tarique Mohd Nurul Huda and Dr. Kausar Iqbal, both Research Associates at the

School, and Robin Heffernan, Coordinator of the EU-Asia Link Project. Their service and commitment to the School was immensely appreciated and the School wishes them success.

➤ **New Staff**

The School had two new members joining its team in June. The School welcomed Shahanoor Akter Chowdhury and Nahitun Naher on board its team.

Shahanoor Akter Chowdhury, joined the School on June 1st, 2008 as a Senior Research Associate in "Realising Rights: Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health in Poor and Vulnerable Populations" Research Programme Consortium. She completed her BSS Honours in Anthropology in 1997 and MSS in the same discipline in 1998 from Dhaka University. Shahanoor also attended Amsterdam Master's In Medical Anthropology (AMMA) at the University of Amsterdam with a fellowship from NUFFIC and graduated in 2008. Just before joining BSPH, she worked as a Senior Research Officer in Social and Behavioural Sciences Unit, ICDDR, B. She also worked in Jajjaidin Protidin, PROSHIKA, Democracy Watch and UNDP-Dhaka. Her areas of interest are gender, health, and development.

Dr. Nahitun Naher Nahin, joined the School as Research Associate on June 5th, 2008. Dr. Nahin, completed her MBBS in 2003. She did her Masters on MQI (Health Care Quality Improvement and Leadership Development) in 2007 from University Of Helsinki, Finland. Before post graduation, she worked as a Medical Officer in various clinics in Bangladesh. Her area of interest is Health Care Quality.

➤ **Faculty Activities**

Dr. Shahaduz Zaman, Coordinator MPH Programme, taught 'Health and Development' in the 'DevPro Programme'. This is a programme for BRAC programme managers organized by the training division at BRAC.

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor, BSPH and member of the National Women's

Forum on HIV/AIDS (established by UNAIDS in Bangladesh) attended the third general meeting on June 9th, 2008 to discuss possible ways to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh. Mr. Ilias Mahmud, Lecturer, BSPH, presented a paper titled, 'Sexual and reproductive health concerns of married men and access to services in a rural area of Bangladesh' in June at the Bangladesh Public Health Conference, 2008. Dr. Farah M Ahmed, Continuing Education Officer, facilitated a session on Maternal and Child Health in Bangladesh, where she presented a case study in the course on Engendering the Health System in Bangladesh, on June 4th, 2008.

➤ **New Premises of the School**

In June the BSPH expanded into a new space, where the School of Law was previously located, to accommodate its growing members. The new space is adjacent to the original BSPH premise.

➤ **Annual Report 2007 Published**

The School published its Annual Report for the year 2007-2008 in June.

JULY

➤ **MPH Programme**

The second module of the ongoing MPH programme started in ICDDR,B on July 13th, 2008 after a vacation. The module started with a course on Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases which continued till July 31st 2008. Richard Cash from Harvard School of Public Health and Steve Luby, from ICDDR,B coordinated the course along with sessions by eminent scientists from ICDDR,B. Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases was a 3-week long course and during the last week of this course students carried out a short research on an infectious disease related problem in Bangladesh. Mejbah Uddin Bhuiyan is the teaching assistant for the course.

➤ **Brainstorming Workshop on Sexuality and Rights**

A Brainstorming workshop on Sexuality and rights (funded by Realising Rights RPC) took

place on July 14th, which was attended by over 20 participants from many different sectors, academics, researchers, counsellors, activists, government officials and people working in sexual and reproductive health programmes. The objective of the workshop was to get some feedback on proposed research plans and build a network of interested persons for future feedback, workshops and training. The workshop was organised by Mahrukh Mohuiddin and Dr. Farah Mahjabeen, and coordinated by Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid of the School. The research plan was presented by the principle researcher Dr. Dina Siddiqi.

➤ **Research Grant Received**

BSPH Received Grant for Research on Comprehensive PHC. In 2007, an international network of researchers and people involved in building comprehensive primary health care (CPHC) received funding to support research and research capacity-building. This network, associated with the People's Health Movement, includes individuals in India, Africa, Latin America, Europe, Canada and Australia.

The research was carried out in two UHCs (Upazila Health Complex). The UHCs were selected from a list of 'high performance area' and 'low performance areas' (as per GOB criteria) and looked at various aspects of the health system such as existing primary health care delivery model, providers and users perspective of a comprehensive user friendly primary health care, evaluation of the idea of 'need based' or 'demand oriented' comprehensive primary health care, identification of any discrepancies etc. through a descriptive cross-sectional study (mixed-method research). After completion of the study, a dissemination seminar will be conducted involving all the stakeholders to sensitize the community regarding the results. The team consists mainly of three 3 researchers. Dr. Tanvir Ahmed; Research Associate, BSPH as the Lead Researcher and Dr. Anwar Islam; Professor, BSPH as the Mentor of the team and from ICDDR, B, Dr. Aftab Uddin; Senior

Manager, Technical Training Unit as the mid-level researcher (research user).

➤ **Roundtable Meeting with Policy Makers**

The Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) organized the roundtable discussion with policy makers and program managers to share the findings of Bangladesh Health Watch Report, 2007, titled "The State of Health in Bangladesh 2007. Health Workforce in Bangladesh: Who Constitutes the Health Care System?" The roundtable meeting was held on July 23rd 2008 at BRAC Centre-BRAC Auditorium. The purpose of the meeting was also to build consensus on some of the policy recommendations made in the report.

Chaired by Dr. Rounaq Jahan, Convener, the Advisory Committee, Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW), the programme was addressed by Md. Akter Hossain Director, training, NIPORT and Professor Dr. Khandakar Md. Shefayetullah, Director Medical Education, HMPD, Directorate General of Health Services. Besides the Working Group members and authors of the BHW 2007 report, participants from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate of Health Services, Directorate of Family Planning, NIPORT, Population Council, RTM International, Marie Stopes, Dhaka Medical College Hospital and BRAC Research and Evaluation Department were present in the roundtable discussion.

➤ **Training on HIV/AIDS related issues, Monitoring and Evaluation under GFATM Package 913**

A three week long training on HIV/AIDS related issues, Monitoring and Evaluation was organized by BRAC School of Public Health in collaboration with NIPSOM, Population Council, PIACT Bangladesh and CWFD with support from National AIDS/STD Program (NASP) and Save the Children USA under GFATAM Package 913. Thirty NGO personnel along with the Deputy Director, Department of Youth Development of Chadpur participated in the training course held in TARC Uttara from July 13th to 31st. In addition to the scheduled

training program the participants had field visits to see the activities run by the support group of People living with HIV (PLHIV) and Drug Users.

➤ **New Staff**

The School had two new members joining its team this month. The School welcomed Nakib Rajib Ahmed and Owasim Akram on board its team.

Mr. Nakib Rajib Ahmed joined BSPH on July 7th, 2008. Mr. Ahmed is currently the Project Coordinator for EU Asia Link project 'building partnership for better health' which is funded by the European Commission. He completed his first Masters degree on Botany under the National University of Bangladesh in 2001. His second Masters degree was on International Relations from Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS) of Waseda University, Tokyo. He was one of the first JDS (Japan Development Scholarship) Fellows to leave Bangladesh for higher studies. He received his MA degree in 2004 and returned home. Since his return he has been working with SMEC (Snowy Mountain Engineering Corporation) Australia, TIB (Transparency International Bangladesh) and recently with BRAC University's James P. Grant School of Public Health. During his tenure in TIB he has done six individual research projects of which four were released last year with national print media coverage. His fields of research were Land Administration, Local Government (Union Parishad) and Primary Education of Bangladesh. After finishing his under graduation (honours) he also worked for US Peace Corps Bangladesh. His fields of interest are land administration and management, effect of Globalization on developing nations and quantitative research techniques etc.

Mr. Owasim Akram, joined the School on July 6th, 2008 as Research Associate in "Realising Rights: Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health in Poor and Vulnerable Populations" Research Programme Consortium. Mr. Akram completed his BSS Honours in International Relations in 2006 and MSS in the same

discipline in 2008 from Dhaka University with a focus on international political economy, Middle Eastern and European affairs, Environment and Ecology, Negotiation, Diplomacy and International security. Before joining BSPH, he worked as Programme Officer in Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB), a USA based NGO working for ensuring quality education in Bangladesh. He also worked as 'Research Assistant' for Sustainable International Peace Project of Hiroshima University, Japan. He also attended International Training program on Capacity Building for Ecological Sanitation held in Nasik, Maharashtra, India as a fellow of European Union's Asia Pro Project. His areas of interest are development policy, international affairs, environmental and social Issues, Participatory Action Research (PAR), human rights and health.

Nabilah Khan, joined the School on July 27th, as Research Support Staff for the project on Stigma and Discrimination of HIV Positive People funded by UNAIDS and in partnership with Ashar Alo Society. She completed her BA degree with dual concentrations including Health: Science, Society and Policy, and, Women and Gender Studies in 2008 at Brandeis University in the United States. Before joining BSPH, she worked as a Peer Counsellor at Financial and Academic Services of Brandeis University, counselling students from troubled backgrounds in academic and financial concerns, in the US. She worked with Social Marketing Company in their Maternal and Neonatal Health Project under Social Franchising & Quality Assurance Department, and also icddr, in their Zinc Tuberculosis and Zinc Pneumonia study in Bangladesh. She worked as a Teaching Assistant for an introductory Women and Gender Studies Course called "Women and Gender in Culture and Society" at Brandeis University, conducting research on gender and leading classes once a week. Her interests lie in health and gender related development including gender equity, sexual rights and health service accessibility of disadvantaged groups.

Dr. Nasima Selim rejoined the BSPH as a lecturer in July 10th, 2008.

Suborna Camellia, joined on July 1st, as Senior Research Assistant for Research Project on "Gender-based Violence among Urban Slum Residents in Africa and Asia: a comparative study between Kenya and Bangladesh". She has over six years experience of working on several research projects in some renowned national and international organizations like BIDS, BUIED, Save the Children Sweden Denmark and icddr. Some of her work has already been published in Bangladesh Education Journal, BAFED, Journal of Anthropology, Jahangirnagar University and BUIED Research Report Series. She completed her MSS and BSS in Anthropology from Jahangirnagar University. Her areas of interest are gender, child rights, education and poverty.

➤ Faculty Activities

Dr. Anwar Islam, Professor, BSPH, gave a presentation on "Women's Health and the Health System in Bangladesh: Need for a Holistic Life-cycle Approach" at CIDA in Ottawa, Canada, on July 3, 2008.

Dr. Sabina Rashid, Assistant Professor, BSPH, was invited to present a paper on "Violence against Women and Health Policy in Bangladesh: Improving Sexual Reproductive Health", at the 10th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, Women's Worlds / Mundos de Mujeres, Madrid, Spain from July 3-9th, 2008.

Dr. Nasima Selim, Research Associate, BSPH completed her research training programme at CSSSC, India. She was selected for the Dr. Jayoti Gupta Memorial Award, for the best Term Paper of the RTP Programme at Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC) for the year 2007-2008. She was also invited as a speaker at the "Ethnographies of Suicide" Conference organised by the department of Anthropology, School of Social Sciences, Brunel University, Uxbridge, UK, on July 2nd-3rd, 2008. Dr. Selim presented her paper, "An extraordinary truth? The Adam suicide notes

from Bangladesh", on the second day of the conference.

➤ Alumni News

Jawaid Stationwala, a student of the 2nd MPH Batch, received Fulbright U.S. Student Award to Bangladesh in Public Health, announced by the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Stationwala is one of over 1,450 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2008-2009 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. The Fulbright Program, America's flagship international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

➤ MPH Programme

The module on Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases ended on July 31st. The course on Public Health Nutrition started on August 3rd and ended on August 14th. It was taught by Tahmeed Ahmed and Ziauddin Hyder and Mejbah Uddin Bhuiyan was the teaching assistant. The students at present are being taught the module on Aging and Health which started on August 17th and would go on till August 28th. This module is being taught by Dr. Zarina Kabir and Dr. Mostafa Zaman. Dr. Tanvir Ahmed is working as the teaching assistant for the course.

AUGUST

➤ Launch of the Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS: A UNAIDS Collaborating Centre

Through a formal agreement between UNAIDS and the School of Public Health (BSPH), BRAC University, the Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS: A UNAIDS Collaborating Centre, was launched at the BRAC Centre, on August 4th, 2008. Mr. Fazle Hassan Abed, Founder and Chairperson of BRAC, was present at the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr. AMR Chowdhury, Dean of the School of Public Health, BRAC University delivered the welcome address. Mr. AKM Zafar Ullah Khan,

the Hon'ble Health Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh; Mr. Dan Odallo, Country Coordinator of UNAIDS; Dr. Rounaq Jahan, Convenor, Advisory Committee, Bangladesh Health Watch and Dr. Alejandro Cravioto, Executive Director, ICDDR,B were special guests and also spoke on this occasion. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University chaired the event and Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor and Centre Coordinator, BSPH, concluded the ceremony by giving the vote of thanks. Dr. Razia Sultana, Research Associate, BSPH, was the MC for the event.

➤ **Training Held for the Stigma and Discrimination Index Research Project**

A four day training was held for Research Assistants on 10th August - 13th August 2008, at YWCA Training Centre, Mohammadpur, Dhaka, as part of the 'Stigma Index', a participatory action research aimed to discover the social stigma and discrimination of the PLHIV in Bangladesh, initiated by UNAIDS Bangladesh secretariat. Ashar Alo was selected as a key implementer to carry out the research activity with the technical collaboration of James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University and IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation/FPAB (Family Planning Association of Bangladesh)). On behalf of the school, Dr. Razia Sultana, Research Associate, BSPH and Nabilah Khan, Research Support Staff participated and facilitated the training sessions. Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor, BSPH and Ilias Mahmud, Lecturer, BSPH held a session on Qualitative Research Methodology. The core trainers were Tony Michael Gomes, National Consultant, UNAIDS and Dr. ASA Masud, Focal Point, AIDS, FPAB.

➤ **Interns Visit from the Nagasaki University, Japan**

BRAC School of Public Health and Nagasaki University, Japan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote research, education, and capacity building especially in the area of health development between the two

institutions. Following the MOU, 11 interns and members from the Nagasaki University and JICA Dhaka toured BRAC and ICDDR,B's project sites to acquire first hand knowledge and experience on health systems, project management, and project activities; understand the process of problem analysis and formulation of projects; and make use of this experience in analyzing issues and formulate projects in the field in Japan. The duration of the intern programme was from 27th August - 16th September 2008. At the end of the visit the students presented their reports based on the knowledge and experience they gained and exchange ideas with the School before leaving.

➤ **Visitors from Rockefeller Foundation, New York and Results for Development Institute, Washington DC**

On August 21st the Secretariat, Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) at BSPH had Lily S. Dorment, Research Associate, from The Rockefeller Foundation, New York and Stephanie Sealy, Senior Program Officer, Results for Development Institute, Washington DC as visitors. The visitors had a meeting with the Working Group Members and Secretariat, BHW. The visitors were interested to know about the Health Watch study on the health workforce, particularly the prevalence of informal and traditional providers and to know about the work the working group is engaged in, (or knows about) that involves innovative health delivery or financing models in Bangladesh.

➤ **Workshop on Improving the Performance of Health-Related Markets in Meeting the Needs of the Poor**

An International workshop was held from August 24th -26th, 2008 at ICDDR,B organized by e-Future Health System, Institute of Development Studies and ICDDR,B. The objective of the workshop was to improve framework for understanding interventions for making health-related markets work better for the poor. It also aimed at building greater understanding of existing and proposed interventions in addition to exploring possibilities for building an inter-country

partnership for innovation and learning. Participants were from Nepal, Cambodia, India, UK, Belgium, USA and Bangladesh. From the school Prof Dr. Anwar Islam and Dr Farah Mahjabeen attended the workshop.

➤ **Workshop on Sexual and Reproductive Health at Chakaria, Cox's Bazar**

BRAC School of Public Health with assistance of ICDDR,B, Chakaria campus organized two dissemination workshops on 6th and 7th August 2008 titled 'Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH) Concerns of Married Men'. The workshops intend to raise awareness among providers (both formal and informal) about SRH issues in general and interpreting those concerns beyond biomedical focus in particular. The workshop provided opportunity for the providers to identify the areas of major sexual and reproductive health concerns, share SRH experiences, perception about the providers, community level recommendations and exploring ideas and suggestions for future planning to meet the challenges of sexual and reproductive health concerns. Sixteen people attended the first workshop. The participants came from different backgrounds, which included doctors from government hospitals, private hospitals, independently practicing MBBS doctors, NGO health workers, journalists of different national and local dailies. The second workshop was participated by 34 participants representing homeopath practitioners, traditional healers (kabaraj, hakim, ojha, boidda etc.), faith healers, pharmacist, village doctors, paramedics, village health workers and journalists. In both workshops the participants presented different practical experiences, insights and views, both at personal, organizational and national level and the workshop provided an extremely valuable opportunity for knowledge, dialogue, information and experience exchange.

The workshop was opened by Dr. Mahbubul Alam, Upazilla Health and Family Planning Officer of Chakaria Upazilla Health Complex. Ilias Mahmud lecturer of SPH, BRAC University delivered the key presentation based

on the research findings at Chakaria on SRH concerns of married men and their access to services for those concerns. Shahanoor Akhter Chowdhury, Senior Research Associate and Owasim Akram, Research Associate of the school were also present at the workshop. The workshops got widespread coverage in different national and local dailies.

➤ **Faculty Activities**

Dr. AMR Chowdhury, Dean, BSPH and Dr. Shahaduz Zaman, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the MPH programme, joined the International conference on 'The new directions for public health education in low and middle income countries' held in Hyderabad, India during August 12th -14th, 2008. Dr. Mushtaque chaired the plenary session: Public Health in the 21st century: Determinants, Dynamics and Directions.

Dr. Zaman, made the pace setter presentation of the working group under the theme; 'Evaluating new models of public health education: Indicators of quality, relevance and impact on health systems' where he presented the BRAC School of Public Health.

Dr. Anwar Islam, Professor, BSPH published a series of articles in the English daily New Age. His article was titled, "A more holistic approach to women's health issues". The other articles which were published on April 7th and April 12th, 2008 respectively were titled "Challenges for the health system in Bangladesh" and "Need for a radical new perspective" respectively.

Dr. Mizanur Rashid Shuvra, Lecturer of the School has been appointed as a full time visiting instructor in the Global Health Department of School of Public Health and Health Services of George Washington University in Washington DC, USA for the period September 2008 - August 2010. In addition Dr. Shuvra has also been accepted as one of the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Students in the same department.

Shahanoor Akter Chowdhury, Senior Research Associate, BSPH; Dr. Nasima Selim, Lecturer, BSPH, Dr. Razia Sultana, Research Associate, BSPH and Nabilah Khan, Research Support

Staff, BSPH attended a day-long workshop on "Poverty of Knowledge and Women's History: Crisis and Possibilities" on August 20th, 2008 organized by the International Federation for Research in Women's History (IFRWH), Bangladesh Chapter. The workshop was held at the Faculty of Arts, University of Dhaka.

Mahrukh Mohiuddin, Senior Research Associate, received a scholarship to attend the CSBR Sexuality Institute, 2008, organized by the Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies in Cyberjaya, Malaysia from August 16th to August 23rd. The Institute was jointly organized by Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR) in Turkey and Sisters in Islam of Malaysia. Participants were activists, researchers, and practitioners undertaking innovative and groundbreaking work from 12 different countries who also shared their country experiences. The School is a member of the Coalition.

Mejbahuddin Bhuiyan, Research Associate, BSPH and Dr. Nahitun Naher, Research Associate, BSPH attended a 3-day workshop on "Scientific Report Writing on Reproductive Health Programs". It was organized by Population Council, WHO and USAID at Spectra convention centre, Dhaka from August.26th -28th.

➤ **Intern joins BSPH**

Lauren Van Enk, an MPH student from the School of Public Health and Global Studies, George Washington University joined BSPH on August 31st, 2008. She will be with the school for a period of four months wherein she would be involved in assisting with the UNAIDS project and the NIPORT Project. Her area of interest is Maternal and Child Health.

➤ **MPH Programmes**

The MPH students completed their Reproductive and Sexual Health & Rights course this month which began on the 31st of August and was completed on 11th September. The course was taught by Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid and Dr. Malabika Sarker. On the last day of the course, students presented their short

exploratory PowerPoint presentations on Reproductive and Sexual Health Status conducted on field trips at different Govt and Non-Govt organizations in Dhaka.

The students also completed the module on Principles of Health Communications and Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Health Programmes, which began on 14th September and was completed on 18th September. The course Principles of Health Communication was taught by Dr. Muhiuddin Haider and Ms. Mahrukh Mohiuddin. Ms. Ana Coghlan and Dr. Syed Masud Ahmed were the faculty for Monitoring and Evaluation course.

➤ **Field Visit**

Ten MPH students visited the Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) for their field trip, as a part of the Health Communication course. The half-day visit included a session on Strategic Communication, presented by Dr. Nazrul Haque, Director, BCCP, and a tour to the media-material center of BCCP

➤ **Nagasaki group completes Internship**

To promote research, education, and capacity building especially in the area of health development between the two institutions 11 interns and faculty members from the Nagasaki University visited BRAC, JICA and ICDDR,B's project sites. They also visited some public hospitals to acquire first hand knowledge and experience on health systems, project management, and project activities and understand the process of problem analysis and formulation of projects. The duration of the intern programme was from 27th August - 16th September, 2008. At the end of the visit the students presented their reports based on the knowledge and experience they gained and exchanged their ideas with the School.

SEPTEMBER

➤ **Formation of an Academic Study Group (ASG) at the School of Public Health**

An academic study group (ASG) was formed at the School of Public Health in the month of

September. The main objective of the ASG is to continually develop the research and teaching skills of the in-house faculty, researchers and programme staff. The ASG will ensure that the group meets at least once a month to present and discuss topics of interest. Dr. Nasima Selim, lecturer at BSPH, coordinated the first formal activity organized by the Academic Study Group: the first in-house seminar held on September 11th, where Dr. Hashima-e-Nasreen (BRAC RED) made a presentation on "Impact of maternal depressive symptoms and anxiety on infant development and health in Bangladesh". The key personnel involved in the investigation were Mushtaque Chowdhury (BSPH), Maigun Edhborg & Zarina Kabir (Karolinska Instut, Sweden) and Kaosar Afsana (BHP).

➤ **Workshop on Sharing Draft Strategic Framework for Developing Standard Operating Procedures for Services to People Living with HIV and AIDS**

The GFATM team organized a workshop on the 23rd of September at BRAC Centre for strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of Government, NGO and implementing partners towards sharing draft strategic frameworks for developing Standard Operational Procedure for services in people living with HIV/AIDS. The chief guest was Mr. A M M Nasir Uddin, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The program was led by the DR. AMR Chowdhury, Dean of James P Grant School of Public Health. Their were members from the Population Council who overviewed the program and a presentation was made by Ms. Ismat Bhuiya, Team Leader & Senior Program Officer of the Population Council. The workshop included an open discussion where the special guests participated.

➤ **MPH Programme**

The fourth batch of the MPH Programme is at its final stage. The MPH students started their Independent Field Study and they are now busy with data collection. The students are working hard with the Research Assistants to produce a special thesis.

OCTOBER

➤ **Centre for Qualitative Inquiry**

The Centre for Qualitative Inquiry (CQI) at the James P Grant School of Public Health began its activities in October. Dr. Shahaduz Zaman, Associate Professor is the Coordinator for the Centre. The first activity was to organize a short course, "Thinking Qualitatively: Theory & Practice of Qualitative Research Methodology" from October 26-November 6, 2008. The objective of this field-based course is to introduce the basic features and concepts of qualitative research; how to apply qualitative research tools in respective disciplines; learn to prepare qualitative data transcripts from descriptive field notes and use qualitative data for analysis and interpretation.

The SPH faculty members who are teaching the course are Professor Anwar Islam, Associate Dean, Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor, and Nasima Selim, Lecturer. The Guest speakers include Papreen Nahar, Assistant Professor, IUB & Hasan-ur-Rahman, Research Associate II, BRAC Research & Evaluation Division (RED). The 25 participants from varied background including health, education, business, sociology, politics etc. working in various NGOs joined the course. Professionals and faculty members from BRAC University and BRAC Education Programme also attended the course. Two of the SPH members participating in the course are Mahrukh Mohiuddin, Senior Research Associate, and Shafiun Nahin Shimul, Lecturer.

➤ **HIV/AIDS Student Seminar**

An HIV/AIDS Student Seminar took place on October 19th, at BRAC Centre which was attended by over 100 students from both public and private universities including University of Dhaka, Jahangirnagar University, BRAC



University, North South University, Independent University of Bangladesh, State University of Bangladesh, NIPSOM and many other individuals from various institutions. The forum was sponsored by the Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS a UNAIDS Collaborating Center, and organized by Nabilah Khan, Lauren Van Enk and Dr. Farah Mahjabeen from the School, and the Centre's coordinator Dr. Sabina F. Rashid. The objective of the forum was to raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS situation in Bangladesh and worldwide amongst students. Top researchers and experts in the HIV/AIDS field conducted short information sessions in addition to a question/answer forum at the end of the seminar. The speakers and the forum panel included Dr. Nazneen Akhter from HASAB, Mr. Ezazul Islam from ICDDR,B, Ms. Bridget Job Johnson from UNICEF, Dr. Ezazul Haque from UNFPA and Ms. Mukta from HASAB. The question and answer sessions were facilitated by Ms. Farida Husain, UNAIDS. The forum was inaugurated by the Pro-vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed and the vote of thanks was given by the Dean Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury. All the sessions were well received and reflected in the numerous questions that were dropped in the anonymous question box and in the evaluation forms filled out at the end of the forum.

➤ **New Staff**

Dr. Enamul Hasib joined as a Research Associate. He has completed his MPH from the University of Wolverhampton, UK. He is a medical graduate completing his MBBS from Sylhet Osmani Medical College. After his MBBS, Dr. Hasib started serving as MO in BIRDEM followed by his next assignment as research associate at Unnayan Onneshan, a research organization. During his stay in UK, he worked as a student staff with the student union of the University of Wolverhampton. He also worked with School of Health of UoW on a project focusing on anti retroviral therapy. He is keen to use his knowledge acquired from the course of MPH to protect, promote and restore people's health through his research activities.

His areas of interest include research methodology for epidemiological studies; health policy reforms; public-private and public-public partnerships; impact of water sanitation on health; conservation of nature; HIV/AIDS and anti retroviral therapy.

Mehreen Karim joined the School as Research Support Staff. She graduated from Temple University, Philadelphia, USA. She majored in Political Science and minored in Anthropology and Religion. She joined the School on October, 2008 and will be working for GFATM under package 913 and in communications. Before joining, she was working with a local NGO (Shishu Tori) that involved working with the street children in Dhaka. She also interned at a law firm in Philadelphia that dealt with women's rights and gender equality. Her interests lie in human rights, world politics and cultural norms effecting human behaviour.

Md. Tanvir Hasan joined the School as Senior Research Assistant. He completed his Masters of Science in Applied Statistics from the University of Dhaka in 2008. He is working on a project named "Strengthening leadership through expansion of HIV and AIDS discourse and knowledge base in Bangladesh" funded by UNAIDS. His M.S. thesis mainly focused on identifying risk factor for secondary complication of diabetes mellitus. His research area of interest includes quantitative research methodology, Biostatistics, Econometrics and some social issues like poverty and disability.

➤ **Realising Rights Consortium meeting in UK**

Ms. Shahanoor Akter Chowdhury traveled to UK to attend the meetings of the Realising Rights RPC (Research Programme Consortium) during 19-26 October. During this period, she met with the RPC staff at the Institute of Development Studies and attended the meeting at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to discuss the research and communications activities. Ms. Chowdhury was also involved in organizing the Consortium Advisory Group (CAG) meeting at IDS on 22

October. The main aim of the CAG meeting was to review progress with work plans for 2008-9 and to review outcomes of the midterm review and RPC responses.

➤ **Comprehensive Primary HealthCare (CPHC) Training in Bangalore, India**

An International Research Training Programme was held in Bangalore, India from 13th to 24th October 2008. The Centre for Public Health and Equity, SOCHARA organized the training programme. This was the first phase of training being conducted as part of the inter-country research project on "Revitalizing Health for All-Learning from Comprehensive Primary Health Care". This study is being supported by a Teasdale Corti grant through the IDRC and the University of Ottawa, Canada. Teams from India, Pakistan, Iran and Bangladesh (Gonoshasthaya Kendra and JPGSPH, BRAC University) joined the training programme. The JPGSPH team was lead by Prof. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean, Dr. Aftab Uddin, Senior Manager, Technical Training Unit, ICDDR, B and Dr. Nahitun Naher, Research Associate, JPHSPH.

NOVEMBER

➤ **Launching of the Report of the Commission on AIDS in Asia, "Redefining AIDS in Asia: Crafting an Effective Response"**

The Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS: A UNAIDS Collaborating Centre, at the James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University hosted a launching of the Report of the Commission on AIDS in Asia, Redefining AIDS in Asia: Crafting an Effective Response on November 26th 2008 at the Sasakawa Auditorium in ICDDR,B. The Report expands and refines the understanding of Asia's pandemic, and identifies the critical components of a viable and sustainable long-term response that can curb AIDS in Asia. Experts and specialists in the HIV/AIDS field, academics, researchers and all others concerned with the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Bangladesh were present at the launch.

➤ **Trauma Workshop**

James P Grant School of Public Health organized a two day workshop based on "Working with children who have been exposed to emotional trauma" from November 12 to 13th. It was held at the BRAC Centre Inn. The welcome speech was given by AMR Chowdhury, Deputy Executive Director, BRAC and Dean of James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University and the workshop was facilitated by Deirdre Evans and Crissy George both from IUBAT. Dr. Anwar Islam, Director, Dr. Nasima Selim, Lecturer, and Ms. Suborna Camellia, Researcher from SPH and staff from various programmes and institutes at BRAC took part in that workshop.

➤ **ASG Seminar**

Academic Study Group's third in-house seminar was carried out on November 30 at BSPH Conference Room. Enamul Hasib, a research associate at the school presented some of his research findings from his MPH thesis on 'HIV Awareness of Injecting Drug Users of Dhaka' which he will later present at the 2nd SAARC Conference on Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS in Nepal on 15-18 December. The study was on the Injecting Drug Users' current knowledge and awareness about the risk of HIV infection.

➤ **Faculty activities**

Dr. Sabina Rashid, Associate Professor, was invited to present on "Social Exclusion and Urban Poverty' at the "Closing the Gap in a Generation: Health Equity through Action on the Social Determinants of Health" seminar on 6-7 November 2008, London, organized by Department of Health, UK with World Health Organization.

Mahrukh Mohiuddin, Senior Research Associate/Lecturer at the School attended the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) Forum 2008 in Cape Town from November 13th to 17th and presented at a panel on "Building a Diverse, Inclusive Movement to Break New Ground: The Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR)". In her presentation,

she highlighted the School's research and training initiatives on sexuality and rights.

Nabilah Khan, Researcher, Lauren Van Enk, Intern from GWU, Kasey Kozara, Intern, and Dr. Sabina Rashid, Associate Professor, at SPH presented a report on "HIV/AIDS Interventions: Successes and Challenges in Bangladesh", to UNAIDS staff at a small seminar on November 19, 2008. This task was undertaken under the umbrella of the Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS: A UNAIDS Collaborating Center coordinated by Dr. Sabina Rashid.

DECEMBER

➤ MPH Programme

The 4th batch of the MPH Program successfully finished the program. On the occasion of the successful completion of the fourth MPH Programme, the James P Grant School of Public Health organized "Graduates' Forum" at Sasakawa Auditorium of ICDDR, B on December 22, 2008. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University chaired the Forum.

➤ Fourth Graduate Forum

The MPH 4th batch students completed their year-long course after an intense year of hard work. On the afternoon of December 22, 2008, the fourth graduate forum of the School was held.

With the graduation of the fourth batch, the School contributed a total of 106 bright public health professionals to the world. The families, friends, faculty and well-wishers of the 29 students of the graduating batch gathered to share their blessings with the students at the Graduates- Forum. The forum is organized every year as a way to showcase the students' dissertation and also to present provisional certificates and special awards from the School prior to the actual graduation ceremony of the University. This day is particularly significant for the students, since this is their final day of

uniting as a batch before the international students depart to go back to serve their respective countries with the knowledge they gained from this programme. International students of this batch came from Afghanistan, Uganda, United States, Tanzania, Myanmar, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Ethiopia and the Netherlands.

The Forum was chaired by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-vice Chancellor, BRAC University. Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Dean of James P Grant School of Public Health, delivered the welcome address, while Dr. Stephen P Luby, Head of the Programme on Infectious Diseases and Vaccine Sciences at ICDDR,B, who is also a faculty of the School, made the keynote address.

➤ ASG Seminar

The Academic Study Group's in-house seminar was carried out on December 28 at BSPH Conference Room. The topic 'Gender and Sexual diversity in Bangladesh' was discussed by guest speaker Mr. Adnan Hossain, PhD candidate at the University of Hull. The presentation focused primarily on three marginal sexual/gender subcultures (Hijra, Kothi and Gay) in contemporary Bangladesh.

➤ Faculty activities

Dr. Shahaduz Zaman, Associate Professor chaired a course titled 'Social, Political and Historical Dimensions of Infectious Disease at the Medical Anthropology Department of University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands from 1-13 December 2008.

Dr. Enamul Hasib, a research associate of James P Grant School of Public Health attended SAARC Second Conference on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases held in Kathmandu, Nepal, during December 15-18 to present his paper titled 'HIV Awareness of Injecting Drug Users of Dhaka'. The Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal was present at the opening ceremony of the conference as Chief Guest.

INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

Institute of Educational Development (IED)

ACADEMIC COURSES, TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, STUDYTOURS

Postgraduate Certificate Program on Early Childhood Development (ECD)

The Postgraduate Certificate Program on ECD at IED commenced on January 6, 2008. A total of 24 participants from various backgrounds including school teachers, medical professional, students, psychologists, IT professionals took part in the course. The first course “Foundations of Early Childhood Development” was facilitated by Dr. Faith Lamb Parker (Associate Professor, Columbia University), Ms Farida Akhter (Developmental Psychologist, Inner Force), Dr Quamrul Hassan (Chief Pediatrician, Apollo Hospitals), Dr Mahmudur Rahman (Dhaka University) and Dr. Jena Hamadani (Head of Child Development Unit/ICDDR,B).

The second course of Postgraduate Certificate Program (ECD522: A Framework for Designing Early Childhood Program) commenced on March 02, 2008. It is a joint collaboration program of BRAC University, Open Society Institute UK, and Columbia University.

The third course of the Postgraduate Certificate Program of ECD “Play and Creativity” commenced on May 11, 2008. Prof. Nazmul Haq (IER, Dhaka University), Dr Fahmida Tofail (Child Development Specialist, ICDDR,B) Ms. Farida Akhter (Child Psychologist, Inner Force), Prof. Dr. Cassie Landers (Columbia University), Prof. Dr. Steffen Saifer (Portland State University, USA) are all facilitating the course.

Master in Education (M.Ed): Leadership, Planning and Management

IED received approval of the University Grants Commission for offering a Post Graduate Diploma and M.Ed program in educational leadership, planning and management.

Primary Education Teacher Certification for Former BEP Teachers.

Teacher Development Group, IED started a professional development program for former BEP teachers so that they can contribute to the national education system with their practical knowledge and experience. The six month long program was designed to be implemented in three modules (2 months each) with face to face instruction for three weeks and five months of supervised practice teaching and assigned self-learning including bi weekly workshop.

Training on Communication and Motivation

With a view to strengthening skills related to child friendliness and as a venture towards promoting child friendly research, IED recently launched a five day long in-house capacity building training as an initial part of a year long training program which will consist of a series of similar trainings. Starting from November 2, 2008 and ending on November 6, 2008, the training had altogether a number of fifteen sessions that encompassed the following topics: motivating a child, effective communicative style, nature of the learners, qualities of good communicator, socio emotional support, socio-emotional development, motivation, care and support, socialization process, physical vs. mental growth, child's need, memory structure, socio-emotional development, attachment and bondage.

BRACU Faculty Orientation at Savar

There was a faculty orientation at Savar from May 6-8, 2008. The orientation ended with remarks from the Pro-Vice Chancellor who congratulated the new faculty and handed out



certificates. The orientation was collaboratively designed and facilitated by the following staff members of BRACU: Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Sadra Siddiky, Hammad Ali, Elizabeth Wickwire, Dr Monica Gomes and Ali Md. Shahiduzzaman.

September 2-4, 2008 saw another BRACU Faculty Orientation at Savar TARC. The following were the core team members from IED responsible for planning and designing the Orientation: Monica Gomes, Ali Md Shahidussaman, Sumera Ahsan, Mohammed Kazi Foyzal, Dilruba Sultana, Kazi Sameeo Sheesh and Rino Wiseman Adhikary.

Afghanistan Educational Leadership Study Tour

IED hosted a 24 member team from 16 institutes of Higher Education based in different provinces of Afghanistan who took part in a four week training program. Seventeen participants from sixteen Institutes of Higher Education based in different provinces of Afghanistan, two translators and the Team Leader participated in the Educational Leadership Study Tour organized by IED from June 20-July 16, 2008. Dr Monica Gomes and Ms Leela Dahal from IED coordinated the Study Tour, while senior leaders and faculty members from BRAC, BRACU and government and non-government organization facilitated the various sessions. The main purpose of the Educational Leadership Study Tour is to enhance the leadership skills and capacities of the participants and provide models of good practices in educational

leadership from case studies of Bangladeshi Government and Non-government educational organizations and institutions and analyze how these may be applied in the context of Afghanistan to improve educational leadership.

WORKSHOPS, TRAINING, CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, FORUMS, SEMINARS

Workshops that have been conducted by IED

As part of the continuing effort in institutional capacity building in Non-Formal Education (NFE), IED organized two workshops (February 4-6 and February 12-14, 2008) at the BRAC Centre Inn in collaboration with UNESCO. The focus was on the collective review of implemented activities and summing up of lessons, and was attended by 50 senior officials, managers, policymakers and other stakeholders from the government and non-government sector. These workshops were essentially follow-on activities to the workshops held in November 2007 that were titled “Planning and Implementation of Monitoring in literacy/NFE Programs” and “Utilization of Research Findings in NFE/literacy Programs” where after four days of initial sharing of concepts and techniques, the participants were required to use their acquired knowledge and skills for six weeks in their respective organizations in implementing an agreed activity.

IED organized a workshop with National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) at IED on February 24, 2008. The aim of the workshop was to familiarize NCTB members with the curriculum developed by ECDRC for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten level. The ECDRC is presently working with NCTB to furnish the national curriculum for government pre-school centers.

Non-Formal Education / Life Long Learning (NFE/LLL) team of IED arranged a daylong workshop on 29 April, 2008 to share relevant experiences with five other NGOs who are

responsible for implementation of pilot project of NFE-2. The 10 NGO executives who were participating presented their experiences of the PLCE pilot experimentation. After the session, the participants came to a decision to start the initial work through assessment in the concerned area of PLCE or community learning centre.

The feedback workshops on handbooks entitled “Literacy and NFE Capacity Building on Monitoring” and “Research Findings Utilization in NFE/Literacy” were organized on May 26 and 28 respectively. Mr. Tapan Kumar Das of CAMPE and Prof. Nazmul Haq of IER (Dhaka University) have contributed to the development of these handbooks.

ECDRC organized a workshop on the Science of Early Childhood Development on 29th May, 2008. Dr. Janet Jemieson (Red Rivers College, Canada) presented her five modular courses in the workshop. The science of ECD has been designed and developed by Prof. Jemieson and is being used in various countries of the world in the field of Early Childhood Development.

A workshop titled “Critical Thinking Teaching in Classroom” and facilitated by IED and held on September 17-18 by Prof. John Bean (professor of English, Seattle University) and Rosalie Bean (teacher in the English department at South Seattle Community College). The main focus of the workshops were on topics like The theory and Practice of Teaching Critical Thinking, Simple Classroom Exercises for Promoting Critical Thinking, Designing Critical Thinking Problems Based on Course reading or Cultural issues and Teaching Strong reading.

Dr Sandra Zaher (Director of English Language Institute at the University of Abu Dhabi and a volunteers of the International Reading Association (IRA) and Mr. Shakil Malik (Senior Project Officer of the IRA) visited IED from March 16-29, 2008. The main objective of their visit was to examine the situation of Bangla and English language skills development at the primary level including curriculum objectives,

teaching learning practices, learning materials, teacher development and the overall learning environment in Bangladeshi schools, and also identify how to enhance the capacities of IED professionals. The visit concluded with a National Consultative Workshop, organized by IED to raise awareness on the importance of language literacy development in Bangladesh and discuss the identified problems.

IED organized/co-organized conferences

A conference on Governance in Education: Transparent, Accountability and Effectiveness was organized on March 2-4, 2008 by UNESCO in cooperation with the Ministries of Education and Primary and Mass Education with assistance from IED. The conference was inaugurated by Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed (Chief Adviser of the Care-taker government). Dr Manzoor Ahmed, (Director, IED,) and Anir Chowdhury (Policy Adviser, Access to Information Programme, Chief Adviser's Office). Ms Rasheda K Chowdhury (Adviser for Primary and mass Education) and Mr. Malam Meleisea (Director, UNESCO, Bangladesh), Mr. MD Momtajul Islam (Secretary, Ministry of Education), Dr A.B Mirza Azizul Islam (Adviser for Finance and Planning). Mr. Ashraf Moqbul (Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education) Ms Hua Du (Country Director, Asian Development Bank), Mr. M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan (Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education), Dr Mahmudul Hasan, (Secretary, Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco) addressed the conference. Over 80 participants from NGOs, central and field levels in primary and secondary education, academics and other stakeholders took part in the working sessions. A ten point Framework for Action for better outcomes in education was presented by Dr Manzoor Ahmed at the closing session.

Third National ECD Conference on Early Childhood Development was held in Dhaka on 17-18 November at Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises. About five hundred ECD programme implementers, facilitators, teachers and professionals contributing to the

development of young children from all parts of the country and abroad including representatives from governmental, non-governmental and international agencies which also participated in the conference. The theme of the conference was “ECD: First Step Last Forever.”

The conferences, conventions, forums, that have been attended by IED staff

Dr Manzoor Ahmed (Senior Adviser, IED) attended the conference for cooperation of Education for All that was held in Bali, Indonesia, from 10-13 March, 2008. Other countries that participated included Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan. Focusing on the themes of teachers as the key to quality education, the meeting shared strategies regarding teacher preparation, incentives and performance in the 9 high population countries that represent 60% of the world's population.

Ms Mahmuda Akhter (head of ECDRC) participated in the Regional Forum on Making the Case for early Childhood in South Asia held in Bangkok in April 28-29, 2008. She chaired the session “The research evidence in support of investing in early childhood”.

Shukla Sikder from IED attended International Reading Association's convention held on May 4-8, 2008 in Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta USA. The convention, which dealt with Engaging Learners in Literacy, focused on preparing activities at preschool levels through adult learners to become capable, confident readers and writers. Shukla also visited elementary and middle schools in Washington DC.

Dr Manzoor Ahmed, (Senior Adviser, IED) presented the Asia Pacific regional synthesis report on adult education and lifelong learning in the Asian countries in a conference in Seoul on 5-8 October, 2008 of government delegations, researchers, academics and NGOs. Dr. Ahmed was asked by UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning in Hamburg, Germany to

prepare and present the synthesis report to the regional conference.

IED presented two of its research papers at the BAFED-UNESCO Education Symposium on November 30, 2008 at IDB Bhaban, Dhaka. The theme was Literacy, Adult Education and Status of Teachers. Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, (Senior Advisor, IED) presented a paper entitled 'Literacy Concept and Context: An Asian Perspective' and Layli Uddin (Research Associate of IED) presented a paper on “Teachers in Primary Education: Meeting the Challenges of Quality with Equity in Primary Education”.

Meetings attended by IED staff

Dr Manzoor Ahmed (Director, IED) attended the first meeting of the advisory board of the Open Society Institute (OSI) on Early Childhood Development held in London on 27-28 April. OSI has been supporting the professional development course offered by IED.

Dr Manzoor Ahmed (Senior Adviser) and Layli Uddin (Research Associate) at IED attended the planning meeting of the Consortium for Research on Educational Access, Transition and Equity (CREATE) at University of Sussex from 9 to 15 November, 2008. Progress in the five year project which began in 2006 was reviewed in the meeting and future plans were discussed.

Ms Mahmuda Akhter, Dr Nishat F Rahman and Dr Manzoor Ahmed, (Senior Adviser, IED) participated in a review of the ECD Academic Programme of IED in New York on 24-25 October, 2008 with overseas academics from Columbia University, University of Victoria, Yale University and Portland State University. The experts from these institutions collaborated with IED in developing the academic program.

Language Education Development Forum

The first meeting of the Language Education Development Forum was held on April 23, 2008

at the IED premises. The purpose is to create a forum that will consist of public, private and international entities in order to develop the language skills of the learners of Bangladesh. Professionals related to language development work from different organizations, such as NCTB, NAPE, TQI, IER-DU, BEP, and Scholastica, government primary schools, participated in the meeting. It was unanimously decided that the forum will be named as Language Education Development Forum and work as a non-political and non-profitable entity to support the programs initiated by the Government of Bangladesh.

Seminars at IED

Dr. Harun Rashid (Principal at Frontier International Academy and an adjunct faculty at the College of Education at Wayne State University, Michigan, USA) presented two seminars “Motivating Today’s Learners” and “Differentiated Instructions” on January 2 and 3, 2008, respectively, at IED conference room. Through both the seminars, he demonstrated strategies necessary to foster an emotionally engaging classroom where students feels connected to school, learning, and one another. He also provided necessary tools to eliminate irresponsible student behavior and empower them to achieve personal power, positive mental model and a sense of self responsibility.

Dr. Sukomal Modak (a US based Research Engineer who is studying the nature of our SSC and HSC examinations) presented a seminar on “Percentile Ranking Based Grading and System Performance Measures for Secondary and Higher Secondary Education in Bangladesh” on January 25, 2008 at IED. He advocates the percentile ranking as a fair grading system, arguing that this type of system will only require procedural changes and software modification. The seminar attempted to measure success of the Boards of Education, advocated incorporating systematic research, and suggested steps that would be geared towards elimination of subjectivity bias, elimination of difficulty bias, establishing a national standard and establishing

a rational level of precision. His book, Percentile Ranking Based Grading and System Performance Measures- A viable Option for the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education in Bangladesh, is published in 2008.

Meetings on Strategic Planning and Proposal Development

Mr. Subir Shukla (a Delhi based resource person) visited IED on April 2-4, 2008 for the purpose of providing technical inputs into the Strategic Planning for the next phase of the institute, with a specific focus on curriculum and materials, teacher development, training and mainstream education system quality improvement.

As a part of the Strategic Planning and Proposal Development process for the next phase of IED, Dr. Mainus Sultan (adjunct faculty at the University of Massachusetts, USA) worked with the institute from April 6-10, 2008. His visit was in connection with providing technical assistance to the Academic and Training section of IED to develop its capacity and assisting in building up a core Training Team in IED that will undertake the task of training of trainers and provide training support to the various activities of IED. Dr Sultan also provided technical assistance to the Research and Development section of IED to develop its internal capacity.

OTHER EVENTS

Agreements signed with World Bank and Aga Khan Foundation, Canada

An agreement was signed between IED and the World Bank. World Bank has commissioned IED to develop a proposal for a sustainable Early Childhood Development (ECD) model for the urban poor in two secondary cities- Narayanganj and Munshiganj. The early Childhood Development Resource Centre (ECDRC) will design a low-cost and replicable ECD model for slum dwellers. The proposed model, after its trial in the two cities, could be implemented more widely through mechanisms

involving the government, the NGOs and academic/research institutions.

A partnership agreement has been signed between Early Childhood Development Resource Center (ECDRC) at IED and the Aga Khan Foundation, Canada. The Foundation agreed to support ECDRC for five years in professional development, research and policy advocacy. The agreement period started from April 2008.

IED Staff Update

Stuart Cameron, a doctoral student from the University of Sussex, UK, has joined the CREATE team. His research topic, which deals with primary schooling amongst poor households in Dhaka, will tie in with a planned school survey conducted by IED. He will also be working on topics such as multiple providers of education in Bangladesh.

Md. Mahboob Morshed, a recipient of Commonwealth Scholarship in the United Kingdom 2008, has gone on study leave to pursue a master of Education (Psychology) at the Institute of Education, University of London.

Celebrating Global Action Week

The event of Global Action Week on Education for All took place from April 21-27, 2008. To mark the occasion, IED collaborated with the British Council and Suravi, a national NGO. The Non-Formal Education/ Life Long Learning (NFE/LLL) team of IED organized a daylong program for Suravi's school children on April 27, 2008. The children spent the entire day at children learning centre of the British Council where they were introduced to the information technology and shown some documentaries on educational equipment.

IED Visitors

40 staff members of Plan International visited IED on March 18 and 19. The team included

country program support managers, learning, education and health advisors, program unit managers and resource persons from Plan offices in the UK, Australia, Sudan, Senegal, Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, China and Belgium. An overview of IED and ECDRC and core activities were presented to them.

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS)

January 2008

The Institute held its first Strategic Planning meeting to provide guidance on the future direction of the Institute. The meeting was convened by the Pro-VC, with the Dean of the Business School, Professor Iftekhar Ghani Chowdhury, the Director of the Institute, Manzoor Hasan, was also present. The Institute provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA) in producing 'UNCAC: A Bangladesh Compliance & Gap Analysis' report. Ms Gretta Fenner, Basel Institute on Governance provided expert advice during the formulation and the eventual culmination of the report. This was approved by the Inter-Ministerial committee, Government of Bangladesh for submission to the UN conference on UNCAC held in Bali Indonesia.

The MoLJPA presented the report to the second Conference of the States Parties for UNCAC held in Bali. The Bangladeshi delegation was headed by Mr Manzoor Mannan, Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission, other delegates included several senior government officials and from the Institute, Mr Manzoor Hasan, Ms Tahmina Rahman & Mr Saiful Bhuiyan.

The Institute also held a two-day workshop on the Election Commission as part the Institute of Accountability Series, where a background paper was presented to a selected audience for discussion. A short policy note will be published in the near future. The students from the Masters

programme provided a presentation of their international study tour to South Korea & China to the VC of BRAC University, Ambassador of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Ms Bea ten Tusscher, and the Secretary to the Ministry of Establishment, Mr Abdus Salam Khan.

February 2008

Mr Manzoor Hasan, Director, facilitated and chaired one session of the regional workshop of the Human Security Report to be published by the Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies (BIISS). Ms Nuzhat Jabin & Mr Md. Mostafijar Rahman joined the Institute in January as a Project Associate & Departmental Coordination Officer (DCO) respectively. The Institute held a curriculum development workshop with the University of Manitoba, Canada for the Professional Certificate Programme on Environmental Governance under the 'Building Environmental Governance Capacity in Bangladesh'. Dr Rizwan Khair, Academic Coordinator and Ms Jabin have been working on this project from its inception. Dr Jose Edgardo Campos & Mr Manzoor Hasan presented a paper at DFID titled Reforming Institutions of Accountability: An Exploratory Approach.

Mr Hasan was invited to speak by the South Asian Human Rights Initiative (SAHRI) on the proposed Human Rights Commission by the Government of Bangladesh. The Institute has also discussed the possibility of collaboration with Royal Roads University, Canada. The Institute organised a re-union of the alumni of the Masters in Governance & Development programme at BDCM, Rajendrapur. Noted guests in attendance were, the Managing Director of Biman Bangladesh Dr Momen and Mr Nojibur Rahman, Joint-Secretary of Local Government.

The Institute hosted Dr Gowher Rizvi, Director, Ash Institute for Democratic Governance & Innovation of Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University as faculty on the Masters programme for the Institute. Dr SR Osmani,

School of Economics & Politics, University of Ulster, UK is currently teaching in the Masters programme. Dr Osmani has also taken classes in the Masters in Development Studies programme of the University. The team working on the National Integrity Strategy (NIS), led by Manzoor Hasan, met with the Cabinet Division on a number of occasions this month.

Mr Hasan also met Ambassador Einar Jensen of the Royal Danish Embassy to discuss the current activities of the Institute. Mr Hasan was interviewed with Erik Nora from The World Bank regarding the activities of the Institute and other issues. The live recording of the interview will be made available on The World Bank website.

March 2008

In March IGS recruited 5 members of staff to the team. Ms Hilda Rozario joined the institute as a front desk officer, Ms Rumana Sarkar as Executive Assistant to the Director, Mr Mohammed Kamrul as Programme Assistant (Finance), Mr Rajib Sarkar & Mr Sultan Zakaria as Research Assistant.

Shahnaz Karim, Assistant Director, presented a paper on "Overcoming problems in Education Governance" at the Conference on Governance in Education, organised by the Institute of Education & Development (IED), BRACU. Manzoor Hasan was invited to give a series of lectures at the BCS Academy, Shahbagh. He was a resource person at the workshop organised by U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre "Building Capacity and demand for Anti-Corruption Reform outside the State", Dhaka. He was also invited by the World Bank to attend a training programme in Washington D.C. While in Washington he was invited by George Mason University (GMU) to discuss possible future collaborations; IGS and GMU signed a MoU in November 2007.

Manzoor Hasan met with senior officials of DAI in Washington. DAI is the implementing agency of the USAID PROGATI project, of which, IGS

is a key partner. The Institute signed a contract to develop the National Integrity Strategy (NIS) with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The NIS team is composed of Barrister Jeneff Jabbar, Mr Ekram Hossain, Mr Sultan Zakaria, Dr Ahmed-ul Gani, Mr Rajib Sarkar and Barrister Manzoor Hasan.

The Institute hosted two Research Fellows, Barrister Larry Taman and Mr Niall Johnston at the end of the month and hopes to work with them both in the near future. On 29th March the Institute organised a day-long workshop on the draft Right to Information Ordinance 2008. The workshop was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Information, members of the civil society, academia, journalists, and international experts. Mr Haydory Akbar Ahmed and Mr Asif Mohammad Shahan from IGS, made presentations based on the draft Ordinance. The discussants at the workshop provided recommendations to further strengthen the legislation and avoid possible pitfalls experienced elsewhere. The proceedings from the workshop will be used to formulate a set of recommendations to be submitted to the government before the Ordinance is finalised.

Dr. M. Emdadul Haq, who picked up a professorial position at the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of BRAC University in August 2007, received the Shahid Direndra Nath Dutta Ekushey Gold Medal from Brahmanbaria recently. Gunijon Shambordhona Parishad has been consecutively organizing the event for the last eight years. This year, Professor Haq was nominated for this award for his outstanding contribution to the field of knowledge and education.

April 2008

Manzoor Hasan presented a paper Public-Private partnership in rebuilding accountability: The missing link at the Bangladesh Heritage Foundation. The Institute has developed a Scope of Work (SoW) with the Parliamentary Secretariat to providing training on the PROGATI project organised by Development

Alternatives Inc (DAI). A Training Needs Assessment was carried out with the Parliamentary Secretariat prior to the SoW. The Institute has been requested to develop the Centre for Investigative Journalism by DAI, supported by USAID. The Centre will aim to enhance the capacity of journalists throughout Bangladesh through training and teaching modules.

Manzoor Hasan and Shahnaz Karim met with officials from the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Dhaka to discuss the 3rd batch of graduate programme at the Institute. The Institute hosted two Research Fellows, Barrister Larry Taman from Canada and Mr Niall Johnston from Ireland. Barrister Taman was once the head of the Ministry of Justice in the province of Ontario, Canada and Niall Johnston is a parliamentary consultant with more than 15 years experience of working in and with parliaments and political parties and latterly Director of Programmes at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

The Institute began its national consultations as part of the National Integrity Strategy (NIS). This started with focal group discussions in Dhaka with target groups including Youth, Academicians, Lawyers, Bureaucrats, Politicians, and civil society. For this month it culminated with discussions with discussions with the same group of individuals in Mymensingh hosted by the DC of the district. Manzoor Hasan held a meeting with the Chief Advisor to provide further information on the progress made on the NIS and the Institute. The team has also developed a theatre presentation for upazilla level consultations.

Haydory Akbar Ahmed was invited by the Jadavpur University in Kolkata, India and UNCTAD (Delhi) to present his paper on Exports, Imports, Remittance & Growth in Bangladesh: An Empirical Analysis at the workshop "Developing Nations in the World Economy: Recent Issues in International trade and the WTO" .

May 2008

The Institute launched The State of Governance in Bangladesh 2007: Expectations, Challenges, Commitments report on 31st May 2008 at BRAC Centre, Dhaka. The programme was Chaired by the VC of BRAC University, Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury with Professor Rehman Sobhan as the Chief Guest. The Institute invited academics, members of the civil society, representatives from donor agencies and resident missions, practitioners in the field of governance and development, and friends of the Institute.

Dr Shahnaz Karim, Team Leader and Assistant Director, provided a presentation on the key findings of the report, which was followed by a short question and answer session. The report was officially launched by the Chair and the Chief Guest alongside the Pro-VC of BRAC University, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, and Director of IGS, Mr Manzoor Hasan. Please visit Research on www.igs-bracu.ac.bd for a full copy of the report.

The 'National Integrity Strategy for Bangladesh' project continued fieldwork across Bangladesh including Dhaka, Rangamati, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna. The report will be submitted to the Government of Bangladesh in September this year. Mr Manzoor Hasan presented a paper, 'Public-Private partnership in rebuilding accountability: the missing link', at the Bangladesh Heritage Foundation. This was jointly authored by Niloy Ranjan Biswas, Asif Mohammad Shahan and Manzoor Hasan.

The Institute and the BRAC Development Institute (BDI) hosted Professor Margaret Levi, International Studies at the Department of Political Science, University of Washington presented a paper, 'How corruption undermines compliance: official honesty, government performance and economic growth', at the IGS Seminar Series. The Institute also hosted Dr Taejong Kim, Associate Professor from the Korea Development Institute.

June 2008

The Institute held two separate workshops to enhance capacity of civil servants. The workshop on 'E-government Readiness' was organised by the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC), UNDP and the Institute. It was hosted by the International Training Complex at BPATC, Savar. The Institute collaborated with the 'Strengthening Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (Phase II)' project to organise the 'International Workshop on Negotiation and Conflict Management' hosted by the International Training Complex, BPATC, Savar.

Mr Manzoor Hasan visited George Washington University, USA as a visiting scholar from the Institute. He also attended a conference in London 'Bangladesh: The Prospects and Means for Strengthening Democracy' with support from World Bank from 23-25th June.

July 2008

Dr. Shahnaz Karim, Assistant Director of the Institute attended a workshop on Building Anti Corruption Capacities for Implementing in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 30th June to 3rd July 2008. The workshop was organized by the United Nations Regional Centre Colombo (RRC) in collaboration with Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission and The Korea Institute of Public Administration. For this meeting, Dr. Karim made a presentation on the 'Civil-society-Government Collaboration in Institutional Reforms: The Bangladesh Experience'.

Mr. Manzoor Hasan, Director of the Institute provided technical assistance to the National Democratic Institute (NDI) for the televised debate on the mayoral elections for Rajshahi and Barisal which was covered by BBC and BTV.

The Institute organized a seminar series on parliamentary issues facilitated by Niall Johnston of the World Bank Institute. The

seminars were conducted over three days and covered issues on The Budget Process, Parliamentary Approval of the Budget and Parliament and the Audit of Public Accounts. The seminars were arranged at the Institute and attendees included staff from IGS and other partner organizations.

The Institute successfully received funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), for research examining the Political economy of Annual Development Plan (ADP) allocation and Social Accountability.

The official website for the National Integrity Strategy project was launched. Further information can be obtained at www.nisforbangladesh.com. The Institute provides technical assistance to the Government of Bangladesh to develop a national integrity strategy, which underpins the anti-corruption strategy from the government.

August 2008

The Institute organized a workshop on the 'Strategic Planning for IGS', facilitated by Dr. Golam F. Samdani, Director, BRAC Training Division. The workshop was arranged at the Institute and attended by all the staff at IGS. The objective of the workshop was to chalk out a roadmap to achieve the Institute's mission. The exercise was a continuation of a series that started earlier in the year.

The Institute organized a seminar on the US elections facilitated by Prof. Eric Uslaner, professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland, on the 2nd of August 2008. The seminar was arranged at the Institute and attendees included staff from IGS and other partner organizations.

The Institute organized a training workshop on the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) facilitated by Mr. Manzoor Hasan, Director, IGS. The training workshop was conducted over two days, held on

the 30 and 31st August at the BIAM Foundation. The training was attended exclusively by civil servants and the objective of the training was to familiarize the officials with the main features of the UNCAC.

September 2008

The Institute undertook an extensive recruitment process in September. Three Research Associates and four Research Assistants were recruited as part of the Institute's core research team.

The third batch of the MA in Governance and Development (MAGD) officially commenced in September. The orientation programme was held at the BRAC Training Center at Khagan, Savar where the students stayed for the first of the three semester residential MA programme.

The Institute organized a two-day workshop with the World Bank Institute to facilitate the establishment of the Centre for Social Accountability in South Asia. The Centre will be housed at the Institute initially.

October 2008

Mr. Manzoor Hasan, Director of the Institute and Mr. Asif Shahan presented a paper on 'Public-Private Partnership in Bangladesh' at an Executive Programme in Public Management organized by the Administrative Staff College of India in association with the Commonwealth Secretariat at Hyderabad, India. Other presenters were from civil society organizations and civil servants. The participants for the workshop were civil servants all over Asia.

Mr. Manzoor Hasan, Director of IGS and Dr. Shahnaz Karim, Assistant Director of the Institute attended the 13th International Anti-Corruption Convention (IACC) held in Athens, Greece. The convention had more than 1300 participants from 135 countries who came together under the banner 'Global transparency: fighting corruption for a sustainable future'.

The Institute organized a talk titled 'Researching the Boundaries between NGOs and

Government: Data from Bangladesh, Philippines and UK' presented by Professor Daniel Lewis. Professor Lewis is Reader in Social Policy at London School of Economics (LSE) and an expert with LSE's Centre for Civil Society. The talk was arranged at the Institute on the 29th of October 2008 and attendees included staff from IGS and other partner organizations.

The Institute welcomed three new researchers this month. Ms. Tamina Chowdhury joined as Research Associate and Mr. Atiq Rahman and Mr. Harunur Rashid joined as Research Assistants.

November 2008

The Institute organized a second training workshop on the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) coordinated by Mr. Saiful Bhuiyan, focal point of UNCAC, IGS. The training workshop was conducted over two days, held on the 8th and 9th of November at the BIAM Foundation. The training was attended exclusively by civil servants and the objective of the training was to familiarize the officials with the main features of the UNCAC.

BRAC Development Institute (BDI)

BRAC Development Institute (BDI) was officially launched on July 22, 2008 at the BRAC Centre Auditorium. BDI is a resource centre focusing on issues concerning poverty and the poor. It seeks to promote research and build knowledge on practical solutions that the poor in the global South face. BDI intends to build knowledge around different initiatives within the South. Primarily focusing on developing new ideas and strategies and testing them out through pilot programmes, BDI's provides important lessons on good practices for development practitioners, policy makers and donors. The institute also welcomes student participation in academic programmes through its Master's programme, intensive courses and internships.

BDI's primary thematic research programmes are divided as follows:

- I. Democratic Governance
- II. Women's Empowerment
- III. Urban Poverty And Climate Change
- IV. Economic Transformation

The core functions underlying the foundation of the Institute are:

- **Knowledge Creation:** highlighting the innovative development experiences in the South and ensuring visibility and voice within global development discourse
- **Convening Experts:** providing a space for development practitioners, academics and policy makers to come together to focus on specific problems of the poor and develop new strategies and pathways
- **Incubating Ideas:** field testing specific ideas through pilots, conducting qualitative and quantitative studies to understand processes and impacts. And distilling good practice lessons for adaptation and scaling up
- **Advocacy:** working with policy makers to adopt pro-poor development strategies

BDI has hosted several events and conducted various research projects within the last year. The following is a description of the activities that have taken place at BDI over the course of 2008.

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

I. DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Under the democratic governance theme, BDI has two research teams:

- Local Governance
- Citizenship

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Around half of the population of Bangladesh live below the poverty line; the governance framework largely follows colonial traditions where public institutions in Bangladesh are sorely inadequate for formulating and carrying

out pro-poor action plans. BDI has embarked upon several research initiatives focusing on generating pressure for government to reform at local, national, and judiciary levels. Underlying these initiatives are some core approaches:

- Evaluating how best to create and implement mechanisms of citizen engagement in local government so that poor people can exercise control over local institutions and government resources
- Generating knowledge on the efforts of poor and marginalised groups to define and claim their rights through an analysis of their relationships with existing institutions
- Finding methods of extending access to justice for the poor

Project Updates

Social Accountability at the Local Level

This research project is designed to work as the springboard to attain the broader mandate of BDI, which aims to contribute to the discourse and practice of social accountability and assist in improving the design of key practitioners engaged in improving citizen engagement at the local level. This study focused on the structure and impact of different social accountability mechanisms at the local level, as well as the forms of collective action and the levels of accountability over Union Parishad decision making and resource allocation. The overall aim of the research was to distil appropriate lessons to determine key elements and methodologies that create effective local level accountability.

100 - Days Employment Generation Programme (EGP) Evaluation

This in-depth qualitative study provides feedback to the Government of Bangladesh on the implementation and the preliminary results of the EGP safety net programme by the end of the first phase. This study contributed to the fine-tuning of the modalities and implementation of the second phase of the programme. The outcome of the first phase of this programme was encouraging, with a majority of beneficiaries – and notably women-reporting positive impacts – including long term

impacts such as consumption smoothing and the lessening of loan burdens. The programme has been quite successful in targeting the ultra poor, despite some lack of clarity in the selection criteria and little preparation of the field officials.

Evaluation study on Community Safety Pilot Project

Funded by Safer World, this project was a short-term pilot aimed at reducing insecurity through a participatory approach. The study was conducted to evaluate the project and to prepare indicators and recommendations for future community safety projects. The research methods used in the study included process documentation, interviews and observation. Research findings indicated the need for in-depth training and a greater time frame for these kinds of participatory projects that involve community mobilisation and social change.

Study on Child Labour

The Governance team completed data collection, analysis and the first draft report of a study entitled “Ultra-Poor Boys' School Access: An Assessment of Trends in Education and Child Labour in Rural Communities”. This study specifically looks at ultra poor children's access to primary school and the discrepancies which exist between the access patterns of boys and girls. This report serves as a qualitative corollary report to the Social Protection team's study assessing the effects of BRAC's Ultra Poor Programme on child labour.

Events

Seminar on “Promoting Citizens' Engagement at the Local Level”- 15th November, 2008

BDI organised a roundtable discussion on 'Promoting Citizens' Engagement at the Local Level' at Lakeshore Hotel on November 15, 2008. Guests included chief guest John Roome, World Bank operations advisor to the South Asia region, along with special guests Corinne Husser, deputy representative of SDC and Professor Tofael Ahmed, Member of Local

Government Commission. The session was chaired by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-vice Chancellor of BRAC University. A total of sixty-five delegates representing various NGOs, donor agencies and Union Parishads participated in the event.

The event opened with a speech by Dr. S.M. Hashemi, Director, BDI which was followed by an introductory speech by Nilufar Ahmed, Senior Social Scientist, World Bank. Dr. Ferdous Jahan presented on “Social Accountability in Bangladesh Knowledge Capacity Building and Participation at the Local Level”. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Mirza Hassan on “Citizens' Engagement” and a question and answer session.

CITIZENSHIP

Deepening Democracy, Building Citizenship and Promoting Participation and Research

National dissemination seminar -'Building Citizenship from Below'

The 'Deepening democracy, building citizenship and promoting participation' research group at BRAC Development Institute held a national dissemination seminar on “Building Citizenship from Below” based on their research findings on 16 July, 2008 at BRAC Auditorium. This research is part of a long-term research initiative under the Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University, UK. As a way of understanding 'democratic citizenship' and the processes of 'deepening democracy' in Bangladesh, the aim of the Bangladesh research is to study different types of *mobilizing and mediating practices* (primarily micro credit provision; micro credit provision with other services; rights to resources and social transformation; labour rights) of grassroots development organizations and identify specific outcomes that can be related to these mobilization strategies. Apart from socio-economic changes due to membership, particular focus was given to the avenues

through which resource poor people gain citizen consciousness and identity, assert their citizenship and strengthen their engagement with the state.

Lead Researcher Simeen Mahmud and Lopita Huq presented the key research findings which illustrate that regardless of the nature of mobilization strategy, peoples' organization at the grassroots can lead to greater economic agency, saving opportunity, access to skill training, space for participation, network building, awareness raising, solidarity and building horizontal social capital. However, different mobilization strategies are also clearly and significantly associated with distinct outcomes. Apart from the expected outcomes of the particular mobilization strategies, unexpected outcomes were identified that show for example, that any form of group mobilization even for primarily micro credit provision, increases people's participation in voting, or that there is a strong link between mobilization around rights and poverty reduction. However, it is mobilization specifically around rights that raises peoples' expectation from the state for service provision and protection of rights and therefore has the most potential to pressure the state institutions to deliver and perform and therefore carries the greatest potential for citizenship practice and engagement with the state.

This research used an innovative way of directly bringing the voices of the people through their own stories. Programme beneficiaries of NGOs and MFIs participating in the research were trained in participatory video-making where they learnt how to use a camera, interview people, create a storyboard, and tell their stories of change and *andolon* in the way they want to. These short films were shown at the seminar.

The event was chaired by Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University. Honorable Adviser Rasheda K. Chowdhury was the chief guest at the seminar and Indranil Chakrabarti of

DFID and Syed M, Hashemi, Director of BRAC Development Institute addressed the inaugural session.

Events

'Taking the research back to the field'

The Citizenship team held field workshops with each of the eight organizations that participated in the research. The purpose of these workshops was to take the research findings back to the areas where the research was conducted. This was to enable dissemination of research findings with the relevant field staff and members of these organisations; in order to get their feedback and validate the findings. Presentations were prepared and delivered in Bengali. The eight workshops were carried out in the research areas spanning seven districts over three months from August to October 2008.

Additionally, the participatory videos made by the members of these organisations were shown at the workshop and copies of all the films were distributed.

Brief study on the responsiveness of local government institutions towards NGOs and NGO-led citizen demands

This study was initiated to deepen and consolidate findings from the research. Interviews held with organisational staff and outcomes of the survey data (2007) revealed sufficient evidence that there is considerable interaction between organisation staff, members and local government institutions. The purpose of the interaction from the perspective of the organisations and its members is to create a relationship between 'the people' and the local administration for demanding and/ or accessing various rights and government benefits. Indeed, which some believe has led to a greater accountability of the local government. This study was designed to explore the nature of the interaction with grassroots development organisations from the perspective of local government representatives and administrators and gain an understanding of any changes in terms of their responsiveness and accountability. For this purpose, the research

team held three focus group discussions with Union Parishad chairmen and members in Khulna and Kushtia in August 2008 and extensive interviews with various local government officials at the Upazila level of the same districts in November 2008.

Case study of Saptagram Nari Swanirvar Parishad (SNSP)

SNSP is a women's organization set up in the mid-1970s, after the liberation war to enhance the economic and social independence and skills of poor and destitute women. Although its coverage was limited, it had gained momentum and left indelible imprints in the development world. However, due to some internal problems, the organisation was on the verge of collapse during the mid 1990s and was thought to have dissolved. Recently, there has been a re-emergence of the organisation. Thus a study of the organisation was designed based on a quantitative survey and qualitative interviews to explore how group members remained unified and the process of sustainability that has allowed the organisation to endure. This survey was conducted in January 2008 and the qualitative interviews in October 2008.

Capacity Building

Participatory video workshop for BDI

A workshop on participatory video making was organised by the Citizenship team. A professional team of filmmakers trained in participatory video filming were invited to conduct a 3-day workshop. This provided the members belonging to the different BDI research groups an opportunity not only to learn video-making themselves but gain the skills to teach groups of people at the grassroots level to make their own films. At the end of the workshop, the participants created a short video on 'The Day in the Life of a Researcher'.

II. WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Pathways of Women's Empowerment

Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Programme of the BRAC Development Institute

(BDI) is an international Research Programme Consortium (RPC) made up of activists and academics who explore and seek to bring about positive change in women's everyday lives. It involves research institutions located in universities in Ghana, Brazil, Egypt and IDS, Sussex as well as UNIFEM. The Programme is funded primarily by the UK's Department for International Development.

The Pathways Research uses the entry points of voice, work and bodily integrity to determine the processes and conditions that allow women to challenge inequality and identify and make visible previously unobserved processes of change in each country. The objective is to make these pathways visible in order to bring about radical shifts in policy and practice that can build on these revealed successes.

The research projects at Pathways address the following four themes:

1. Building Constituencies for Gender Justice
2. Empowering Work
3. Changing Narratives of Sexuality
4. Conceptualising Empowerment

Project Updates

Changing Narratives Theme

Religion Research

This project sought to understand the importance of religion in the life of the 21st century woman. The Religion research field work was completed in May 2008. The report and paper for this research were in process, being redrafted and refined with the newer insights acquired over reading the field data over time and with the readings and concepts that we've encountered.

The first draft of the Religion report was presented at the 'Changing Narratives of Sexuality' Theme Meeting held at IDS April 7-9, 2008. The meeting proved to be an extremely fruitful exchange where we were able to convey our preliminary research findings and identify issues that required further elaboration. A

second draft was presented in August 2008 and the third draft submitted for the Pathways RPC Mid-Term Review Conference in Cairo in January 2009.

Media Research

Another important force shaping the lives of women is the media and this research looked at women's engagement with television watching. During the month of June 2008, the team created guidelines for Focus Group Discussion and Household Interviews, compiled materials for a literature review, and selected the research sites. Pilot testing of the research methods took place during the first two weeks of July and revisions were made taking into account our findings in the field. Actual field research for the collection of data for the media research project commenced in mid-July and will proceed in earnest until the end of September. A draft article was written up by young members of the research team and submitted for the January 2009 Pathways RPC conference.

Changing Narratives Regional Meeting

The Changing Narratives team held a Regional meeting with Simorgh, its partner in Pakistan August 7-10, 2008. Neelam Hussain and Firdous Arshad from Simorgh visited Dhaka to share their experiences at the field level and their research findings. They also submitted a first draft of their research report. The teams exchanged ideas, made cross-country comparisons and discussed how to consolidate the findings of the individual research inquiries to produce a joint report.

Work Theme

Survey

A 5300 person survey was carried out to explore the empowering aspects of paid work as compared to non-paid work, explore the continuum between paid and un-paid work and also explore the relations between work, voice, body and empowerment. The Work team completed their field research. The team also analysed data and consolidated their findings in order to synthesise information for writing the

preliminary report. A first draft paper was written up for the January 2009 RPC conference.

Women Health Workers Bangladesh

Field work was completed mid-year 2008 and intensive data has been collected. Preliminary findings were presented in the work thematic meeting in October 2008 in Delhi. An article was written up for the January 2009 RPC conference and a longer report is being prepared for submission in June 2009.

Community Health Workers Pakistan

The Government scheme of lady health workers was studied as a programme that is introducing new models for women, challenging purdah, encouraging mobility, and even seems to have government endorsement. The study has been completed by Ayesha Khan, CSR, Karachi.

Voice Theme

Local Governance, Bangladesh

The Local Governance Bangladesh team completed their survey of approximately 600 women last year, the data was compiled in early 2008. In-depth interviews were carried out and analysed with approximately 40 elected women. A report was prepared for the Voice Theme Meeting in November 2008 in Cape Town and a revised draft has been submitted for the RPC Conference in January 2009.

Constituency Building by Women's Organisation

The study sought to understand the processes of constituency building used by women's organisations while creating social movements around a particular issue. About 12 in-depth interviews have been carried out with members of 3 national women's organisations. In addition to this, various written materials have been collected on the mobilisation issues selected for the study. Reading on theoretical texts related to the subject was done in the working group. An advisory committee was formed to guide the research with members from the academia, women's organisations and the Pathways team. A draft paper was prepared and presented to the

Voice Thematic meeting in November 2008 in Cape Town. After a presentation to the Advisory Group it has been revised and a draft final paper submitted for the RPC Conference in Cairo in January 2009.

Conceptualising Empowerment Theme

The '*Stories of Change*' documentary produced by Pathways South Asia set off on a country-wide tour during the month of July. The film was screened in six cities across Bangladesh- Dhaka, Rangamati, Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna and Rajshahi- and generated much discussion and debate everywhere it went. At each screening, there was a panel discussion consisting of a media personality or journalist, a human rights activist and a teacher/professor who reflected on their thoughts about the film before the audience. At each location, we invited the protagonists who lived in or around the area to be present during the screening. The film tour took the uplifting stories of the five protagonists to different parts of the country and helped share their spirit of their lives to many audiences. It also helped garner publicity for the Pathways Programme.

Analysing Discourses on Women's Empowerment

This study sought to understand the various discourses around women's empowerment and development, their developments, the mutual influences various actors have had on each other and the contradictions and consolidations that occur within these discourses. The research has been divided into the following components:

- discourses of empowerment employed by donor agencies
- discourses of empowerment among political parties and among three major NGOs in Bangladesh
- discourses on women's empowerment in the media
- discourses of empowerment among three major women's organizations and also the discourses around the women's advancement policy and its recent changes.

The various pieces were completed at the end of December 2008 and then put together as a draft overview paper to be presented at the RPC Conference in Cairo in January 2009.

Internal Research Presentations

The Pathways team has been presenting the individual research papers internally, in order to get feedback and revise the papers, to make them sharper and stronger for presenting at the RPC Conference in January 2009.

Events

1. The Pathways Programme had organised an international workshop titled “Dialogue on Concepts of Women's Empowerment” January 21, 2008. The workshop was very well attended and had panelists from Bangladesh, Ghana, Nigeria, Palestine, Brazil, Pakistan and the UK. The panel presentations broadened the scope, depth and perspectives from which to approach issues around empowerment and opened up new areas for exploration and research.



Members of the Voice Thematic Meeting in January 2008 Dhaka

2. The Programme also convened an international working group meeting of researchers working on the theme “Building Constituencies for Gender Justice and Equality” January 22- 24, 2008. Not only were Pathways researchers from the various contexts across the globe attending the meeting, but researchers and academicians working locally in Bangladesh, outside of the Pathways programme, were also invited. This

enriched the meeting by presenting differing perspectives.

3. The Pathways Programme organised a talk by Srilatha Batliwala titled “Taking the Power out of Empowerment” on March 03, 2008. Ms. Batliwala is a Research Fellow at the Hauser Center at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. The lecture reflected on the history of women's struggles and articulated ways of grappling the issues around women's rights given the differing ideologies and socio-economic realities of women's lives. The talk was very well attended and the discussions that followed inspired new ways of thinking about issues that beset development practitioners and rights advocates and helped to foster fresh perspectives from which to consider the betterment of women's lives.
4. Firdous Azim and Samia Rahim were invited to a Brainstorming session on the Sexuality and Rights Research Project, part of the Realising Rights RPC, July 14, 2008.
5. Following the Regional Meeting with Simorgh, the Pathways programme arranged a public lecture titled “Women



Samia Huq, Research Fellow, presenting at the “Women (re)negotiating Religion” Lecture

(re)negotiating Religion: Experiences from Pakistan and Bangladesh” on August 10, 2008. This was a presentation on the research findings around women engaging with religion in their daily lives. Samia Huq, a Research Fellow at Pathways, presented an analysis of the work conducted in select urban and peri-urban areas in Bangladesh and Neelam Hussain from Simorgh, related their encounters in the cities of Lahore and Karachi. The presentations were very well received and the question and answers session that followed elicited thought-provoking discussions among the attendants.

6. Maheen Sultan and Samia Rahim were part of a Roundtable Discussion between the Pathways of Women's Empowerment RPC and the Women's Empowerment in Muslim Contexts (WEMC) RPC titled “Negotiating alliances, overcoming opposition: Women's movements and other social movements” on November 13, 2008 at the



Members at the Roundtable Meeting of the Pathways and WEMC Programmes

Cape Cullinan Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa. Both research programme consortiums are funded by the Department of International Development (DFID) and DFID sponsored this exchange for the members of the two RPCs to meet, form linkages, network and share their research work.

7. Maheen Sultan, Sohela Nazneen and Samia Rahim attended the 11th AWID Forum on

“The Power of Movements” in Cape Town, South Africa November 14-17, 2008. The Forum brought together women's rights activist from all over the world to debate and strategise about how to build stronger women's movements globally.

8. Maheen Sultan and Sohela Nazneen presented on the panel “*The NGO-ization of women's organizations and its implications for feminist organizing*” at the AWID Forum in Cape Town, South Africa.
9. Samia Rahim moderated a talk show at the AWID Forum in Cape Town, South Africa, hosting Andrea Cornwall, Mbuyiselo Botha and Henry Armas titled “*Women's Empowerment: what do men have to do with it*”? Incredible interest was shown to the topic with about 200 people turning up for the session. The discussion forum after the talk show generated a lot of questions and the need to engage and recognize more men in discussions of feminisms was greatly felt.

Capacity Building

1. Internal "reading sessions" had been organised by research teams to increase conceptual understanding among members which was a very good means of developing capacity. The reading sessions were carried out most successfully for the religion research and also for the research on building constituencies for gender justice.
2. Sahida Khondaker and Marufa Akter attended a two day "Presentation Skills Course" offered by the British Council in Dhaka on February 16 and 23, 2008.
3. Samia Rahim attended the "Sexuality and the Development Industry Workshop" held April 3-5, 2008 at IDS, Sussex UK. The workshop brought together a diverse range of activists, researchers, development practitioners and individuals from donor agencies to elaborate on the ways the

development industry approaches issues of sexuality.

4. Samia A. Rahim was selected to participate in the "Feminist Technology Exchange", organised by AWID and the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) in Cape Town, South Africa from November 10-12, 2008. Samia enrolled in the track for Digital Story Telling and produced a digital story called "Looking..." that primarily narrates her experiences of race, class and other identities that have left a mark on her.
5. Sahida Khondaker, Aanmona Priyadarshini, and Shaila Yasmin Kona enrolled in a BDI training course on "Participatory Video" for research purposes. This training was organised by the Citizenship DRC, also based at BRAC University, from December 13- 15, 2008.

III. URBAN POVERTY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Since Bangladesh has been witnessing rapid urbanisation for the last few decades, BDI has identified urban poverty and practical solutions to it as a critical element of its agenda. One of BDI's major events was a Roundtable on, "Strategy Plan of Action on Climate Change" to address the impacts of climate change phenomenon on the livelihoods of the people of Bangladesh.

Events

Roundtable on Climate Change, November 4, 2008

This Roundtable engaged politicians, policymakers, civil society members and technical experts in a dialogue on Climate Change at the Spectra Convention Centre. The half day workshop focused on the Government of Bangladesh report on Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2008 (BCSSAP).

Raja Devashish Roy, Special Assistant to the Chief Advisor, was present as the Chief Guest.



Participants at the Roundtable on Climate Change

The Honourable Advisor encouraged civil society initiatives on research, advocacy and policy support on climate change. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, moderated a dynamic and insightful conversation on climate change impacts, adaptations, and mitigation strategies. Syed M. Hashemi, Director of BDI, assisted the Vice Chancellor.

IV. ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Social Protection Team

Pathways to Sustainable Livelihoods: Understanding the Process of Change in the Lives of TUP Beneficiaries

BRAC's "Targeting the Ultra Poor" programmes targets the poorest who fail to benefit from existing development programmes, including micro-credit programmes. The programme is modelled on sequences activities aimed at sustainable improvements in the conditions of the poorest. The interventions include grants for consumption support and small assets, skills training, and health and social development inputs. BRAC staff spend two years closely monitoring and working with programme participants. By the end of the programme period participants gain confidence, develop sustainable livelihoods and graduate out of the ranks of the ultra poor.

BDI has initiated an ethnographic study called "Pathways to Sustainable Livelihoods: Understanding the Process of Change in the Lives of TUP Beneficiaries." The social

protection research team focus on: conceptualising and rigorously defining graduation, determining what categories of the poorest benefit from the TUP model, who will require ongoing state support, tracking the process through which change occurs, identifying the factors that promote and inhibit graduation, and assessing how each element of the safety net package (consumption support, asset transfer, training, savings, etc.) integrate with other elements to provide the best support.

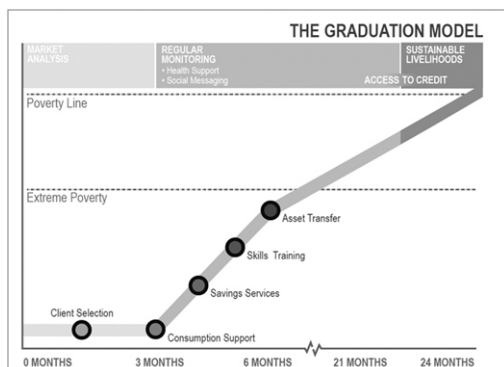
The following tasks were undertaken by the team in December, 2008:

- Project planning for the first 3 months of data collection
- Identifying indicators and research tools
- Field selection
- First field visit for population sampling

CGAP- Ford Foundation Global Graduation Programme

BDI is implementing and managing the CGAP-Ford Foundation Global Graduation programme. The graduation model follows sequential steps over a period of 24 months to provide a ladder out of poverty for the poorest (see graph below).

The CGAP-Ford Foundation graduation programme is based on the proven success of the BRAC 'targeting the ultra poor' (TUP) programme currently being applied in Bangladesh. The CGAP-Ford model has



adapted many of the key programmatic components of the TUP programme but seeks to apply the graduation model outside of the context of Bangladesh. Currently, the graduation model is being piloted in Haiti, Honduras, Peru, Pakistan, West Bengal and Hyderabad in India, Ethiopia and Yemen. Five of the nine pilots are subject to randomized impact assessment. Qualitative research is being implemented in all sites, along with rigorous project monitoring and evaluation.

The model aims to specifically target the ultra poor by linking safety nets with financial services in order to combine the alleviatory elements of safety nets with the transformative elements of microfinance, thus enabling the poorest to graduate *out* of poverty in the long term.

Updates

Meeting with Naila Kabeer in London, UK, December, 2008

Naila Kabeer consultant to BDI is working with BDI staff to conduct qualitative research on a select number of beneficiaries in India and Pakistan as a part of the CGAP-Ford global graduation program. The purpose of the research is to complement existing quantitative research and better understand how the poorest improve their economic and social conditions and lead sustainable economic activities. The purpose of the meeting was for BDI staff: Syed M. Hashemi, Karishma Huda, Nicolina Lamhauge to meet with Naila Kabeer and establish a research agenda for the next 12 months. Researchers at BDI will follow the lives of program beneficiaries over a period of 12 months.

Global Workshop in Kolkata, India, April 28-May 1, 2008

The Graduation Initiative held its first global workshop in Kolkata, India. Workshop participants included: pilots from Pakistan, Haiti, Honduras, Ethiopia and India. Also Ford Foundation, Innovations for Poverty Action

(IPA), ImpAct from IDS and BRAC, in total there were more than 40 participants. The primary objectives included a sharing of experiences, the progress made, the challenges confronting each pilot and the lessons learned. The impact assessment team, both the qualitative assessment team from IDS and the Yale team, conducting randomized control trials, were present to explain how the impact assessments were being carried out and how the feedback could help improve performance of the pilots.

The workshop included three days of intensive discussions, a full day trip and many side meetings amongst different groups of participants.

The major areas of discussion included:

- The concept of graduation
- Targeting
- Consumption stipend
- Asset transfer
- Client monitoring systems
- Linkages with other sector
- Savings services
- Impact assessment

The workshop demonstrated the great excitement amongst pilots in the realisation that we were collectively engaged in cutting edge work that would influence development discourse in a significant way. Everyone was determined to make their pilots succeed and thrilled at making connections with others engaged in confronting the same challenges.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

Masters in Development Studies (MDS)

In September 2008, 15 new students enrolled in the Master of Development Studies (MDS) programme. The MDS programme was established in 2004 and is an ongoing academic programme within BDI. It is a multidisciplinary programme which has been comprehensively designed and has produced several graduates to date. MDS seeks to create professionals who

have the conceptual clarity, analytical skills, and academic knowledge to effectively address strategic and practical challenges within development discourse. The programme prepares graduates for higher studies or to take up responsibilities for teaching, research, consultancy and management in developmental organisations. It is expected that a total number of 17 students will be completing their graduation in February 2009.

OTHER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Launch of BRAC Development Institute (BDI), BRAC University

BRAC Development Institute (BDI), BRAC University, was officially launched on July 22, 2008 at the BRAC Centre Auditorium and received prominence amongst media and relevant development partners. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, chaired the programme. Professor Rehman Sobhan, Founder Centre for Policy Dialogue was chief guest. Other guests included Rasheda K Chowdhury, Advisor to Care Taker Government, Professor Nazrul Islam Chair UGC, Rashed Khan Menon, Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud and Hameeda Hossain. BDI will act as a resource centre for issues on poverty and the poor.

The South Asia Launch of the Chronic Poverty Report 2008-09

The Chronic Poverty Report is an annual publication of the Chronic Poverty Research Centre. It reports on global trends and issues concerning chronic poverty. The 2008-09 report focused on "Escaping Poverty Traps". BDI hosted the South Asia launch of the report on July 24, 2008 at the BRAC Centre Auditorium. Professors Tony Addison and David Hulme of the Chronic Poverty Research Centre and the Brooks World Poverty Institute, University of Manchester, presented the main findings from the report. Professor Atiur Rahman, Professor Baqui Khalily and Dr Sajjad Zohir discussed the findings of the report and the implications for Bangladesh. The report findings showed that the chronically poor live their lives in poverty and

their children are highly likely to be poor as well with many of the chronically poor will die prematurely of easily preventable deaths. The chronically poor are trapped by insecurity, including lack of assets such as land, as well as limited work opportunities and social discrimination. Economic growth has few benefits for them, many live in remote areas characterised by a lack of infrastructure. They need a 'just social compact' through social protection, public services, effective anti-discrimination legislation, gender empowerment, and policies to tackle spatial inequality. The report argues only then can they become 'true citizens'. The report concludes that chronic poverty will grow unless urgent action is taken. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 will still leave many people in chronic poverty. Additionally, the recent rise in global food and energy prices will drive many more into chronic poverty.

Seminar on "Trends in Landownership and Livelihood: Two Decades of Rural Development in Bangladesh"

BDI and the Research and Evaluation Division (RED) at BRAC jointly organised the seminar to present findings from a series of longitudinal surveys conducted over the last two decades. Mahabub Hossain (Executive Director, BRAC) and Abdul Bayes (Professor, Economics Department, Jahangirnagar University) discussed the changes in landownership and livelihoods in rural Bangladesh. Landownership in Bangladesh remains unequal. The ultra-poor (owning less than 0.04 acres of land) constitutes 40 % of all rural households. In 1988, 34 % of rural households were ultra-poor implying a marked increase in landlessness. On the other hand, approximately 4 % of households owned more than 2 hectares of land. The bottom 40% of households own only 8 % of total land, while 4 % of the wealthiest households own 32 % of all land. An interesting feature of the rural economy has been the vibrancy of the tenancy markets and very recently the importance of market signals. In 1988 only 12 % of rural households rented out land. By 2004 the share had shot up to 29%. But since then, over the last four years,

market profitability has led more and more households to switch back to cultivating their own land.

Another very interesting feature of the rural economy has been the rise in off farm employment. Non-farm households constituted 34% of rural households in 1988 with 9% of cultivated land, but by 2008, the share rose to about 44% to command about 27% of total land.

Seminar on "Rice Market Instability: Who Gains and Who Loses?"

BDI and the Research and Evaluation Division (RED) at BRAC jointly organised a seminar on August 21, 2008 to present findings from repeated household sample surveys in 62 villages in Bangladesh. Mahabub Hossain, Executive Director, BRAC and Abdul Bayes, Professor, Economics Department, Jahangirnagar University, discussed the rice market dynamics based on repeat sample surveys, conducted from 1988 to 2008. They explored the causes of the recent price hike, its implications for the levels of poverty and especially extreme poverty, and suggested policy options to mitigate future instability. This survey data showed substantial improvement in the poverty status (income based measures of poverty) over the last 20 years. But there has been deterioration in the situation from 2004 to 2007 due to the recent price hike. The study mentioned that the fixed income groups such as - industrial labourers and the lower level government workers have suffered the most due to the recent price hike while the income of vulnerable groups have been adjusted to some extent.

BDI-IDS Workshop on "Globalizing the Development Knowledge" held on November 18, 2008

The workshop on Globalizing the Development Knowledge' was held on November 18' 2008 at the BRAC Centre. The Institute for Development Studies (IDS) Sussex, UK, recently launched a programme- Globalizing Development Studies to create new knowledge on development that is 'globally constructed'

through partnerships to include the experience of the South. BDI and IDS have teamed up to pursue this agenda.

The purpose of the workshop was to address conventional development thinking and practices that is strongly dominated by the North. Southern voices are muted, Southern narratives ignored, and new ideas from the South often appropriated and re-packaged to suit Northern agendas. A major reason for this is the inability of the South to strongly articulate independent positions, conduct rigorous research on its own terms, and provide the intellectual critique of ideas that fail to advance its vision of growth and justice. This has major ramifications for the production of knowledge. The purpose of the workshop was to have an initial discussion on what Southern voice or a Southern paradigm means, and how to move forward in creating an alternative global discourse with a southern core. Participants were drawn in from different disciplines.

BDI's Contribution in the Social Development Programme Annual Report

BDI has played an instrumental role in planning, coordinating, editing and publishing the Social Development Programme annual report of 2008 entitled, "Translating Awareness Into Action". The report is the successful outcome of the joint activity between SDP and BDI. The report details the practice and methods through which SDP has been continuing their activities and achieved their targeted goals and objectives. A description of the programme's broad aims objectives and tools are given in the report.

SDP began in 1977 focusing on issues related to physical violence, gender discrimination, adult education and social inequalities. The programme mission of SDP is to enhance the human and social capital of the poor and disadvantaged, particularly women, so that they are aware of their rights and empowered to claim their entitlements and resist exploitation. Building rural institutions, local governance, information dissemination and addressing human rights violation issues are broad aims of the programme.

Centre for Languages (CfL)

The Centre for Languages (previously known as El-Pro) has brought a new dimension in language teaching at BRACU. CfL believes in innovation, critical thinking and creative language teaching. The Centre arranges faculty workshops throughout the year to ensure professional excellence and self-development among its faculty members, so that they can be successful language teachers. Teaching English is a complex task, especially since students come with varying ability levels, but CfL strives to motivate students by making language learning exciting and enjoyable.

EVENTS

➤ **Seminar and documentary on BRAC**

In March, CfL organized a seminar and documentary screening on the history and philosophy of BRAC. Mr. Abdur Rahman, a trainer of BRAC, gave a lecture on how BRAC started and grew into the organization it is today, and how it brings about sustainable improvements and changes the lives of people both at home and abroad. The lecture was followed by a documentary film titled "The New Horizon" that depicts BRAC's journey from its beginnings to the present day.

➤ **Visit to BRAC Schools / Field Trips for Professional Development**

On March 8, CfL faculty visited BRAC primary schools at Dhamrai and Manikganj, as well as the Ayesha Abed Foundation. The purpose of the trip was to learn more about BRAC's teaching methods and the foundation's work that benefits underprivileged women. The CfL instructors observed how the students were eager to learn and how the teachers used creative practices integrated with sound methodology. The teaching method that these rural teachers use is student-centered, emphasizing student interaction and collaborative learning techniques which make learning interesting and fun.

While visiting the Ayesha Abed Foundation, the CfL faculty was able to see the many different

creative processes such as block and screen printing, tie dyeing, and hand embroidery. The efforts and the patience of the hardworking men and women can be seen in the excellent Aarong handicrafts.

➤ **Training on Public Speaking**

In March, Alexis Johnson, a member of the well known Toastmasters International Institute for Public Speaking and Motivational Speech, conducted public speaking training for the directors of BRAC and the teachers and trainers of CfL. Following the initial training, a train-the-trainer session was held, for the staff from both the BRAC Training Division and CfL. The training was a refreshing reminder of the value of being a motivational and moving speaker in terms of relating to the audience and making it worthwhile for them to attend and understand the topic. The program focused mainly on the delivery rather than the content, focusing on voice, pitch, volume, emphasis, tone and variety. For the train-the-trainer session, she concentrated on facilitation skills through micro training sessions. Alexis is working online with BRAC and CfL to develop a module on public speaking for different kinds of audiences, ranging from students to professional trainers.

➤ **BRACU Writing Lab Workshop**

On 9th April, 2008, the BRAC University Writing Lab organized a workshop entitled "Acing IELTS: Effective Test Taking Techniques." The workshop was conducted by ATM Sajedul Huq (Coordinator BUWL/IELTS Writing Examiner), Nudrat Lohani and Namrata Arif (BUWL Tutors) for BU students intending to take the IELTS exam.

➤ **Workshops on Writing-across-the-Curriculum and Critical Thinking Pedagogy**

CfL immensely prioritises faculty development and with this view, CfL arranged three workshops in September, 2008. The workshops were facilitated by Dr. John C. Bean, Consulting Professor of Writing and Assessment of English at Seattle University and Rosalie (Kit) Bean,



Composition and Reading in the English Department at South Seattle Community College where she coordinated the Writing Center. The workshops were designed to promote learning through in-depth discussion of essential aspects of language teaching such as Writing-across-the-Curriculum (WAC), implementing critical thinking pedagogy in language teaching instruction, and extending Critical Thinking pedagogies into the Centre for Languages (CfL).

The first workshop held on 7th-8th September focused on "*How Writing-across-the-Curriculum Pedagogy in the United States Might Be Adapted to a Bangladeshi Context.*" The participants were the department leaders from different public and private universities. Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, the Director of CfL Mrs Sarwat Abed and lecturers from CfL, Governance Studies and Department of English of BRAC University were also present. The second workshop held on the 9th-10th September was on a contemporary issue: "*How a Critical Thinking Pedagogy Might be Integrated into English Language Instruction in Bangladesh.*" It was geared towards the English Language teachers of different universities of the country. Both of the workshops were held at BRAC Centre.

The last workshop was on "Extending Critical Thinking Pedagogies into the Centre for Languages' English Curriculum." This workshop was held at BCDM, Rajendrapur, Gazipur for two days (12th-13th September).

The participants were the English language teachers of Centre for Languages (CfL). As CfL has already been practicing Critical Thinking in its curriculum, this intensive workshop became an excellent opportunity for the teachers to reinforce their knowledge about using pragmatic approaches in the classroom. Through interaction, sharing different ideas and experiences, the participants focused on different issues of promoting critical thinking.

➤ **Seminar on the Liberation War**

A nation's identity is based on its history and, today's generation knows very little about what happened during the War of Liberation in 1971. With this in mind, the Center for Languages (CfL) organized a Seminar on the Liberation War of Bangladesh on the 17th of November, 2008. True heroic stories of the 9-month struggle were unearthed. The guest speakers were Major Taher Ahmed (Retd) BP, Major General Helal Morshed Khan, Bir Bikram, psc (Retd), Major Qamrul Hasan Bhuiyan (Retd), Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Q. Sajjad A. Zahir Bir Protik and Mr. ASM Shahidullah Khan.

Major General Nurun Nabi (Retd) was also there to present copies of his book about his experiences of the War to the BRAC University Library. The objectives of the Seminar were to create awareness amongst students about the Liberation War, to know more about the country's history, and to motivate them to think of ways that they can contribute to their nation for its betterment at present and in the future. The seminar was organized by Ms. Tahreen Ahmed, Lecturer (CfL) who hopes that this event is the first of many of its kind at the university to enable youngsters to have a better understanding of their roots, and to be proud Bangladeshis.

➤ **Chinese Class by Lu Min**

In its attempt to embrace all major languages of the world, CfL has presented all BRAC and BRAC University staff with the opportunity to learn Chinese. Classes began on the 17th of November. This is the only time the course has been offered free of charge.

Given that Chinese is a very tonal language, a large portion of the course focuses on sounds, phonetics, vowels and consonants. The course, conducted by Mr. Lu Min, equips the learners with a sense of Chinese history and culture, the history of the language and, the evolution of the Chinese language and calligraphy. Mr. Lu Min has joined CfL for a year with the intention of working as a Chinese instructor. He is a Volunteer Tutor who has been sent to Dhaka by the Chinese Government.

CfL ACTIVITIES AT THE RESIDENTIAL SEMESTER

➤ **CfL Weekend at the BU Residential Campus (Spring 2008)**

The CfL faculty leads the extracurricular and co-curricular activities for the students at the Savar Residential Campus. Throughout the semester, the CfL instructors facilitate and supervise three weekend programs. In March there were the usual weekend activities, including yoga, sports, creative writing, glass painting, Thai language learning, jewelry box making, tie dying, debating and cooking. In addition to all the activities, there were three special workshops, which were especially designed for the students. A candle-light dinner followed by a cultural show added a special touch to the weekend program.

◆ **Seminar on Grooming**

Sadra N. Siddiky, a CfL instructor, facilitated the seminar on grooming. The focus was on business etiquette, social awareness, dining etiquette, and personal hygiene. The session was interactive, and the students engaged in brainstorming in groups and then presenting their ideas. The seminar was designed to help the students achieve professional excellence as future leaders.

◆ **Seminar on Nutrition**

The seminar was facilitated by Sunida Witayakarn, a CfL instructor from Thailand. She emphasized the importance of healthy eating and the important sources of nutrition, especially for young adults. It was observed that

some students were reluctant to eat vegetables and fruits. Therefore, creating awareness among those students in particular was a key objective of the seminar.

◆ **Seminar on Drug Abuse**

This seminar was organized with to create awareness among the BU students about drug abuse, its causes, and consequences. Brother Ronald Drahozal and two staff members who are recovering addicts facilitated this seminar. Bro. Drahozal is the Founder and Executive Director of APON, an addiction rehabilitation center and residence. APON has been providing drug rehabilitation to the poor and young since its establishment in 1994. Through an effective Q&A session, this seminar helped the students be aware of the deadly consequences of drug abuse and of the different ways to get assistance.

➤ **First CfL Weekend at the BU Residential Campus (Fall 2008)**

On October 18, the first CfL Weekend for Fall 2008 was held for students of the Residential Semester in Savar. The students enjoyed several activities such as funky necklace making, glass/lampshade/tray painting, debate, photography, cooking, sketching, food carving and quiz competition. More importantly, the students were able to explore the authentic use of English in each activity as well.

◆ **Seminar on Nutrition**

Sunida Witayakarn, a Thai CfL instructor, conducted a Nutrition Talk focusing on the Importance of Healthy Food for Young Adults, Sources of Nutrition with the touch on Eating Habits and Eating Disorders (mainly Anorexia and Bulimia). The aim of the Talk was to show the importance of necessary nutrition in students, improve better eating habit and increase the awareness of eating disorders.

◆ **Seminar on Community Living**

Sadra N. Siddiky, a CfL instructor, facilitated the seminar on Community Living. The focus was on Challenge of Dorm Life, Facebook Etiquette: Student-Teacher Relationship on FB, Classroom Behaviour and Elevator Etiquette.

This interactive session was designed to help the students be aware of their surroundings and learn how to conduct themselves in a social context.

➤ **Second CfL Weekend at the BU Residential Campus (Fall 2008)**

The second CfL Weekend was held on November 22, 2008 for the students residing at Savar Campus. The students continued exploring the different uses of English language in authentic atmosphere in their selected activities. Apart from the outstanding performances in Debate on the topic of 'Is Media more powerful than the Government?' there were also other activities such as funky necklace making, glass/lampshade/tray painting, photography, sketching, food carving and quiz competition. Moreover, the students were also enthusiastic in rehearsing their performances in the Cultural Programme for Savar Final Fair as well.

◆ **Workshop on Job Markets and Jobs in Bangladesh**

'Act locally, think globally' – to create this awareness among students, CfL arranged a workshop in the 2nd CfL weekend at BRAC University Savar Campus. The main objective of this workshop was to broaden students' views on the present job market, skills in demand, and consumers and employers expectations from the job seekers. The workshop started with a session conducted by Mr. A K M Fahim Mashroor, the CEO of bdjobs.com. He highlighted the dominant trends in job sectors, especially the major shifts and skills required in the job market. The second speaker was Mr. Scott Kirk Patrick, CEO, Superior Solutions, a San Diego-based company working in Bangladesh. He discussed the growing business of the Customer Service call centre around the world and its prospect in Bangladesh. Mr. Shah M Azlan, Management Associate, Citibank and Mr Md Jaman, CEO, WiND Marketing Communication, two BRAC Alumni, shared their experiences of preparing for a successful career. They also talked about their experiences as BRAC University students. The workshop ended with a Q & A session

where the current residential semester students interacted with the facilitators about the present trends in the job market.

TEACHERS' ACTIVITIES

➤ **Paper accepted for Publication**

"English Language Teaching Policy in Bangladesh: Shall it be reviewed?" by A.Q.M. Khairul Basher, CfL Lecturer, is to be published in CLIT Journal 2009, University of Wales, Bangor, UK.

➤ **CfL Lecturer on Study Leave in China and Scotland**

CfL Lecturer Golam Jamil is pursuing the M.Litt in English Language Teaching, an international exchange programme offered by the University of St. Andrews, Scotland in collaboration with Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), China, at the National Research Centre for Foreign Language Education, BFSU. He is now at Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), China to study Applied Linguistics, partake in a number of ongoing research projects and also to experience teaching to young learners. Following this, he will attend the University of St. Andrews, Scotland in February to undergo the remaining courses and the dissertation. He is expected to return at the Centre for Languages (CfL), BRAC University in September, 2009.

➤ **CfL Faculty Member Attended International Conference in Japan**

Kazi Sarmad Karim, CfL Faculty Member, appointed as the Team Leader for the Bangladeshi delegation for the 6th Asian Youth Forum (AYF6 2008), attended a 1-week international youth conference (October 28 - November 5, 2008) together with other participants from across Asia for academic seminars, intercultural workshops, social events

and interpersonal exchanges using English-as-a-global-language. The event brings together university students from 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, such as Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Pakistan and Russia. The AYF will be a part of a Pan-Asian Conference (PAC 7) hosted by Japan Association for Language Teaching (JALT NPO). The Asian Youth Forum (AYF) is an international exchange program founded in Japan.

➤ **New CfL English Language Fellow**

Lisa Ponzetti joined BRAC University, Centre for Languages, in September 2008. An American by birth, she has been working and living overseas since 1997, after she received her M.A. in Applied Linguistics from Ohio University. Although her undergraduate degree is in International Business, she found education to be more interesting and rewarding. She has taught in Mongolia, the U.S., Kazakhstan, and Turkey, primarily at the university level. She also has worked with USAID, kindergarten students, and in teacher training. Lisa is thrilled to be in Bangladesh now. In addition to BRAC University, Lisa will be working at the BRAC Centre with the PACE Program.

➤ **New CfL Chinese Teacher**

Lu Min, selected as a volunteer Chinese language teacher by the Chinese government, joined CfL on November 2, 2008 as an instructor. He received his Bachelor's Degree in English Teaching and Master Degree in English Literature from Hebei University, China. Being a professional, Lu Min had worked as an English Teacher at Chengde Diyi Senior Middle School in China for fourteen years. Before coming to Bangladesh, He was the Director for Managing Students' Study in the same school. He expects to be with BRACU for one year.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Clubs and Forums

The Student Affairs Office supervises the activities of all student clubs and forums at BRAC University to provide an environment for a 'complete learning experience'. It strives to make the co-curricular activities more student-centric. There were a total of 28 clubs and forums formed by students and advised by faculty advisors in the categories of arts, community service, culture, entrepreneurship, international, science, sports and subject related in 2008. Student activities were conducted under the 'co curricular activities guidelines' of the university.

In 2008, the following events took place along with numerous other events conducted by the student clubs and forums:

- BRAC University Football Club organized Intra-University Football Tournament-2008. The Grand Final of INTRA University Football Tournament-2008 was held on 22nd March at TARC-Savar Ground. The finalists were Summer-04 and Fall-04, the senior-most batches of the university. Summer-04 won the championship by eliminating their rival Fall-04 by 4-3 (Tie-Breaker). A.B.M Saiful Bari from Fall-04 was awarded as the "Man of The Tournament" and "Highest Scorer of the Tournament" while Muhammad Abdul Hakim Shaon from Summer-04 was awarded as "Man of The Final".
- BRAC University Cultural Club and Angan, Architecture Department jointly organized a demonstration Lecture or Jalsha 'Travelling Through Songs' by the renowned singer by Moushumi Bhowmik on Thursday 20 March 2008. Moushumi Bhowmik performed modern Bangla songs, of a distinct style, sometimes with a touch of folk tunes and mostly

transmitting messages on social issues, such as her famous song 'Jessore road'.

- BRAC University Film Club arranged a movie show to celebrate a Women's Day which was dedicated for women. The movie that was screened was Mona Lisa Smile. The show got a good audience, both male and female. BUFC also organized a Movie Show for Emu. Since the movie show was organized to collect money for Emu, a ticket booth was set up in the cafe a few days before the movie show. Response from everyone to buy the ticket was overwhelming. "Onno Zoddha", "Lage Raho Munna Bhai" and "Pirates of the Caribbean - at world's end" were screened. Overall, it was a great event both in terms of the movie show and in terms of the main motive of this event - to collect donation for Emu, which was more than expected.

- AIESEC in BRAC University had a day out starting from the 13th March 2008 (Thursday) and ending on the 15th March 2008 (Saturday) in Elega Resort, Tangail. The first ever Meet the Leader (MTL) organized by AIESEC in BRAC University, has paved the path to a success for such future endeavours. The special guest was the Managing Director of INCEPTA Pharmaceuticals. It was a great experience with participation of students and faculty in this event. The event was successfully arranged by AIESEC with full support and co-operation of BRAC University.

- Student Affairs Office organized a colorful "Independence Day Rally" with all clubs and forums on March 26, 2008. Led by Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, Chairperson, MNS Department, around 100 faculties, staffs and students from different clubs and forums participated at Independence Day Rally to the National Memorial at Savar. The rally to the National Memorial generated a lot of enthusiasm and fervor among the students and was conducted successfully.

- Trust for Social Development organized a workshop on HIV/ in collaboration with oikos Dhaka, on May 24, 2008, sponsored by Standard

Chartered Bank. The five hour long interactive session from 9:00am to 2:00pm commenced with the registration process and handing over the registration packages. The speakers made the students participate in the discussion. They talked about AIDS, how it spreads, how it can be prevented and about the different contraceptive methods available for prevention. There were discussions on how to behave with people who are affected by the disease including counseling. The workshop ended by giving certificates for their active participation.

➤ Global Affairs Forum of BRAC University has successfully organized the voting campaign event named "Vote for Bangladesh, Vote for Cox's Bazar". With the purpose of doing something for our country the members of GAFBU arranged this two day event (June 10th and June 11th). We set up a booth in the BU Cafeteria and collected 480 votes for Cox's Bazar to make it as one of the 7 natural wonders of the world. We also did a PowerPoint presentation to encourage the students and faculties of BRAC to give more votes.

➤ On the 6th of June MONON visited a Rehabilitation Centre for Children and the Elderly named 'Boshipuk' in Gazipur. All the members reached the facility at 10:45 am and were joined by some faculty members of different departments of BRAC University. Drug is a poison that is capable of destroying a civilization, an outrageous flame that is grasping the young generation. To make the youth aware about the devastating effect of drug addiction, the Anti-Drug Day is celebrated widely on 26th June every year. This year MONON has taken an initiative to commemorate the Anti-Drug Day with the program named 'JAGORON' including a rally, movie show and seminar. "SAY NO TO DRUGS" was the slogan while a group of students carried out a rally in front of BRAC University building at 10:30am.

➤ BU Cultural Club organized a "Folk Song" program at indoor games room on June 26. BRACU students performed there along with the famous folk song artist Kiron Chandro Ray.

On June 16 cultural club celebrated "Nazrul & Rabindra Jaointi". There were 12 performers from BRAC University Cultural Club. Two famous Nazrul and Rabindro songit singers Mita Haq and Saheed Samad also performed in that program.

➤ On June 12, the Art Society organized the "Summer Fest 1415" fair at Indoor Games Room. The fair received a huge response from the students and officials of BRAC University.

➤ BRAC University Photography Club organized a workshop on basic photography for fresh recruitments and interested candidates on July 6, 2008 conducted by the senior students Kafi Newaz Khan, Zaquiul Deep and Tanveer Harun.

➤ Global Affairs Forum of BRAC University arranged a lecture session under the headline "Shantir Pothe" on July 14, 2008. The seminar was conducted by Professor Tridip Suvrud, an associate of Sabarmati Gandhi Ashram, Ahmadabad, India. The topic of discussion was Gandhi's teaching of Nonviolence, Tolerance and Peace in contemporary South Asia.

➤ On July 17, 2008 BU Cricket Club organized the prize giving ceremony at Indoor Games Room of Inter Semester "Six-A-Side" cricket tournament.

➤ BUCuC organized a Jalsha of popular modern songs to promote diversity on July 24, 2008

➤ BUFC organized a three day long film festival from July 28 to 30, 2008 named "Shekorer Shondhane". Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, VC, BRACU inaugurated the festival. On July 30, Mr. Tareque Masud, the renowned movie maker shared his movie making ideas and stories with the audience. BUFC screened famous and great movies of our Bengali culture. The objectives of the event were to help the students familiarize with our culture and make them appreciate the greatness of our famous Bengali movies.

- From July 31 to August 2, 2008 AIESEC organized the summer conference at Elenga, Tangail. All delegates of AIESEC from different universities like - BRACU, NSU, IUB & AIUB, attended that conference.
- BU Film Club organized film show on October. It started with a warm up movie show "Rock On" on 8th October. On 19th October, we had our film show on occasion of the club fair. "The Dark Knight" and "Wall-E" were screened on that day. This month was brought to an end with another film show "The Grudge" on 28th October.
- A Fusion of Colors and a Spirit of Enthusiasm - two phrases were enough to describe the atmosphere of this semesters' club fair program. Every semester, one of the many student clubs and organizations of BRAC University take the opportunity to host a club fair for the university. This time, in Fall 2008, the club fair was organized by AIESEC in BRAC University. Fusion, as the club fair was titled - was one of the most glamorous and the most exhilarating club fairs ever witnessed by students/faculties of BRAC University.



- The Global Affairs Forum of BRAC University organized a seminar on "Fight Against Corruption: Our Goal" This event was special due to the gracious participation of two very important individuals: Dr. Iftekhar Zaman, the executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), and Lt. Gen. Hasan Mashud Chowdhury (rtd), the

chairperson of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). The event was started with a keynote presentation and speech of the special guests, followed by a fiery question answer session with the students, which was moderated by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, the Pro Vice Chancellor of BRAC University. Judging from the active open discussion, it can be concluded that the student body, most of whom are the first time voters, are very interested about the future of Bangladesh. They want to see a nation of progress and prosperity, where corruption and political instability are intolerable. The only question remains, will the political parties put forward such a candidate whom the youth of today can vote for?

- MONON organized two interactive sessions to observe 'World Mental Health Day' 2008, one for students and one for faculty members of BRAC University. The program was held on 20th November 2008 with active contribution of the club advisor and the members.

- BRAC University National Heritage Forum (BUNHF) organized a one day study tour on Tangail-Modhupur on November 14, 2008. In this tour they visited some of the famous Jamindar houses situated in Tangail, Dhanbari and Shantosh. They also visited the Modhupur Reserve Forest and the Mohera Jomindar Bari (Shooting Spot of Shrabon Megher Din).

- BUNHF organized day long online voting for Cox's Bazar and Sundarban on 25th November, 2008. Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University inaugurated the voting event on behalf of BRAC University Family. Mr. Shafique Alam Mehdi, Chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation was invited as the Chief Guest. Among the special guests, Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Professor Iftekhar Ghani Chowdhury, Dean of BRAC Business School and Mr. Mahmood Hasan, Registrar of BRAC University, Mohammad

Khaleq Newaz, co-advisor BUNHF were present in the event.

➤ UNFPA and BRAC University organized a seminar and concert program on World AIDS Day 2008 on 3rd of December from 2:00pm at LGED, 2nd floor Auditorium. The mission of students of BRAC University is to "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise." That's why they have focused on leading the nation and promised to send the green signal throughout the world that "WE ARE SAFE" at the seminar. BRAC University organised a month of activities in November and a day of activities on 3rd December. In November 2008, BRAC University Cultural Club, Drama and Theatre Forum, Computer Club, Film Club and oikos Dhaka covered more than 15 private universities and 7 public universities by approaching through their clubs and student organizations (Dhanmondi Zone: United International University, The University of Liberal Arts, The University of Asia Pacific, Eastern University, and Stamford University etc; Gulshan Zone: North South University, IUB, South East University, AIUB, East West University, Premier etc, Ahsanullah University; Public University Zone: Dhaka University, BUET, Dhaka Medical College, Solimullah Medical College, Jahangirnagar University, Home Economics College and other national universities). Huge amount of beautiful banners have been printed to send the message "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise". At the seminar they had two special honorable guests. They were Dr. Khandaker Ezazul Haque, HIV officer from UNFPA and Dr. Mozammel Hoque from UNODC. They gave their valuable speeches and had a very good interactive session with the students. Two rehab centers CREA and BARACCA presented themselves and focused on how they have been dealing with drugs and AIDS. United International University and BRAC University presented their proposal which were based on "How to stop AIDS?" Best Proposal Award was given to BRAC University Film Club by Dr. Mozammel Hoque at the seminar. Shondhani Blood Center campaigned for a whole day long and gave their speech.

BRAC University organized a very good cultural program and a concert at the end of seminar. About 306 people (274 students, 25 Band Performers and 7 people from different organizations) were present there till the end of the program. The proposed idea of the World AIDS Day is to build up the Leadership that encourages leaders at all levels to join forces to stop AIDS. Leadership empowers everyone individuals, organisations, and governments to lead in the response to AIDS.

➤ AIESEC hosted a round table discussion named Voice Your Opinion (VYO) on November 25, 2008. The topic for the discussion is "The first time voters of Bangladesh". The main speakers of this event were Ms. Taleya Rehman, Executive Director of Democracy Watch and Mr. Rubayat Khan, Executive Member of Jagoree. AIESEC organized a training program for their members on November 21, 2008. The training program was updates their skills on certain sectors of the work they do. The training program named "Local Training Program (LTP)". They also worked on certain projects like HIV/AIDS, poverty, education, etc.

➤ On November 18, 2008 RAB Head Quarter organized an Anti Drug Campaign at Uttara RAB 1. BRAC University was invited to attend the campaign. Student Affairs Office sent a team of four members including a faculty advisor from MONON, two students and student affairs officer to attend the campaign. Higher authorities of different law enforce agencies, people from different level of the society, film artists, singers, faculties and students from other universities were also present there. BRACU faculty advisor from MONON, Mehbuba Sani gave a clear idea about the activities and initiatives taken of BRAC University against drug in her speech. After the seminar BRACU team joined the destroying program of weed and Fensidil which worth about taka two and a half crore.

➤ Student members of the BRAC University Environment Awareness Forum (BUEAF) and



the people of Korail squatter jointly installed a water filter in Korail squatter. The students and the local people installed the water tank and the filter, which gave them an opportunity to serve the community and get some hands on training. The filter was sponsored by Siemens Bangladesh Ltd. It was formally inaugurated on 7 February 2008, at 4:30 pm. Student members of BUEAF, Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Advisor BUEAF, Mr Rene Arnt, Director and Mr Md. Lakitullah, Senior Manager Siemens Bangladesh Ltd., Dr Zainab Faruqui Ali, Director Student Affairs, Professor Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson Dept of Architecture, and Huraera Jabeen, Lecturer Dept of Architecture were present in the 'water filter inauguration ceremony', where everyone took a sip of the purified water.

➤ BUDTF arranged a daylong celebration program on November 10, 2008 for the 5 years of their foundation and success sponsored by BRAC Bank Limited. They put up three skits as stage performances, one of which was a puppet show. Other than that, they involved the students in different activities throughout the whole day like instant performances, sharing memories and such other fun tasks. They also launched their new logo and officially inaugurating their new beginning in the presence of the V.C., Pro-V.C., Registrar and other teachers of BU by cutting a cake. Certificate and crest giving ceremony was held for all the ex and present members of BUDTF.

➤ Bridging Cultures the month of November has been a great and delightful month for BRAC

University Film Club. At the starting of this semester, this club gained partnership with two international institutes Russian Center for Science and Culture and Goethe Institute. To greet this partnership, BUFC along with Goethe Institute arranged a whole day long film show named "Bridging Culture" in Goethe Institute, Dhanmondi on 20th November. The movies screened on that day were "Amadeus," directed by Famous German director Milos Forman and "Lalon" which is a film based on Fakir Lalon Shah. As the name suggests, through this event, BUFC created a bridge between our Bangla culture with that of German by screening two famous movies of each culture. It was always believed that the best way of sharing and understanding different culture is through films.

➤ A two day long film festival, celebrating the partnership with Russian Center of Science and Culture (RCC) five films based on World War 2 was screened on November 11 and 12, 2008. The screened movies are "They Fought For Their Motherland", "The Cranes Are Flying", "The Star", "Ballad of A Soldier" and "Torpedo Bombers".

➤ BUFC went to National Zoo on 14th November with the sole purpose of having a General Body meeting in a very unique and enjoyable environment. On November 29, 2008 "da Circle" where everyone becomes one, was organized as the concluding ceremony of the semester for the club and also as the appreciation for the new members who worked throughout the semester. On November 30, 2008 BUFC screened "Incredible Hulk" as the concluding movie show of this semester.

➤ BU Indoor Games Club (BUIGC) participated in the Inter University Table Tennis Tournament, organized by UIU from Nov 23 to Nov 26, 2008. Among NSU, EWU, PAU, UIU and other 11 participating universities BRACU became runner-up. It is the result of enthusiasm and hard work by BUIGC team.

➤ The Annual Cultural Program 2008 organized by BRACU Cultural Club

held on 16 November, 2008 at the National Sports Council Program Auditorium. The program was started by giving away the prizes for the annual cultural competition 2007. The cultural program started with a moving patriotic song sung by Salman Raihan Khan followed by impeccable performances by others. After a series of six songs Angela Haque came on stage with a dance that really changed the monotony. The next performances were a few stunning performances by some of the best performers of BUCuC. The show moved on with the stage set on fire with another ground breaking 8 minute long dance. The audience was glued to their seats all through with the last few compulsive songs that were performed by the most popular singers of the club. Making history was Stawb Peter's solo guitar performance, a first in the BUCuC Annual Cultural Program history. The last two songs were performed by the goodbye bidding president S M Riadul Hoque who once again reminded us how amazing a singer he is, coloring the whole ambience with his mesmerizing voice. The program ended with all the organizers and performers rushing on stage to pose for the group photos. The event was a great success leaving the club members really content and satisfied with how the entire event shaped up.

➤ BRACU Electronics and Communication Club organized a career workshop and seminar

on Telecom Career Talk-Technical on November 18, 2008. The workshop was designed to inform the students of the technical aspects of the WCDMA Air Interface in a UMTS/3G network. This workshop includes topics as follows: CDMA Basics, Radio Access Network, UTRAN, Physical Layers and Radio Resource Control. Head of HR, Ranktel was also present in that session. On Nov 27, 2008 BUECC organized an industrial visit at BTV-Transmission Section Rampura, Dhaka. This trip was organized to help the students to get a brief idea about the implantation of microwave communication and get the opportunity to have the experience of watching how the modules work for transmitting video and still pictures recorded and live.

➤ Rotaract Club of BRAC University organized a project which was Free Medical Treatment for the poor people on November 21, 2008. Many people in our society are deprived from the proper medical treatment. They do not have enough money to go the doctor. So, Rotaract Club stood beside those people by arranging a Free Medical Treatment. Rotaract Club started their work with the nearest location and for this we have chosen TNT colony slum. They invited a doctor to participate the campaign. They took along doctors and distributed free medicine. Also they provided free treatment around 50 people there.

THE RESIDENTIAL SEMESTER

All BRAC University students spend one full semester in Training and Resource Center (TARC), Savar, a well-designed BRAC University Campus with 17.5 acres of land. Characterized by its successful integration of curricular and co-curricular activities and fully equipped with all modern learning facilities the Residential Semester (RS) is a compulsory event for all BRAC University students to fulfill the requirement for their degree.

Each year TARC hosts three Residential Semesters – Spring, Summer and Fall. The Residential Semester (RS) of Spring 2008 commenced on the 20th January, 2008 with 152 students from all schools and departments of BRAC University. Among them 70 were female and 82 were male. The 13 week semester ended on 17th April, 2008. Summer 2008 Residential Semester started on 17th May, 2008 in the Savar Campus of BRAC University. Total 251 students from BBA, CSE, ECE, ESS, LAW and ENH Departments attended the 13 week semester. A total of 162 students joined the Residential Semester in Fall 2008, started on 12th September, 2008. The students were from BBA, CSE, ECE, ESS, LAW and ENH Departments. There were 89 male and 73 female students. The Residential Semester was of 14 weeks duration and was terminated on 18th December, 2008.

Student Orientation

An orientation program in the beginning of the Residential Semester (RS) is generally designed to provide the students and their parents/guardians an insight and deeper understanding about the semester. The orientation sessions normally focus on the objectives of the Residential Semester. Some group work for the Residential Semester's students are also arranged and senior students who had previously attended the RS semester,

shares their experience with the new RS students.

- On 21st – 22nd January, 2008, a two-day long orientation was held for the students of the Residential Semester (RS) of Spring-08, at Markuli Hall, Savar Campus. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University and Mr. Habibur Rahman, the Campus Superintendent of the RS, facilitated the session. On the second day of the session, the parents of the students were invited and 170 parents participated in the session.
- A two-day orientation program was arranged by BRAC University on 18th – 19th May, 2008, before the Residential Semester (RS) Summer-2008 started at Savar Campus. The Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, the Campus Superintendent (CS) Mr. M Bari Chowdhury, faculty members, house tutors and teaching assistants were present. A total of 257 students were also present in the session.
- On September 13th, 2008, an orientation session followed by a seminar was held in



the Markuli Hall from the morning to evening. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor conducted the program. Mr. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, Campus Superintendent, BRAC University Savar Campus, acted as the co-facilitator. Students were divided into six groups to decide the campus rules by themselves. A student from one group Mr. Amit Kumar Das wrote a poem to describe the class rules.

Social Lab Exercise

All students of the Savar Campus have to participate in the Social Lab Exercise in the Residential Semester. In this unique exercise, the students perform the roles of different actors of Residential Semester of TARC starting from the Campus Super down to Cleaners and Laundry persons. The students are assigned different roles of Campus Super, Services Manager, Accountant, Librarian, Health Assistant, Office Assistant, Telephone Operator, Store Keeper, Cook, Waiter, Dish Washer, Room Attendant, Cleaner, Laundry person, Construction worker, Grass cutter, and Labors. The exercise usually creates a lot of enthusiasm among the students. A reflection session normally follows after completing works. In that session, all students express their views and what they have learned in the social lab exercise. Every semester the students of RS take part in the Social Lab Exercise. The objective of this exercise is to let the students learn the importance of work. Moreover, to make them understand that “No work is less important and easy to do. We must respect each and every works in our life and valued the persons involved in. In 2008, the students of Spring, Summer and Fall participated and completed the Social Lab Exercise with great enthusiasm and success.

Residential Semester (RS) Dinner

➤ The Residential Semester (RS) Dinner of Spring-08 semester was held on 12th March, 2008. Ms. Luna Shamsuddoha, Director of Dhoatc was the Guest of Honor. The guest gave a speech on professional career

development and conducted the question-answer session. A brief presentation on the BRAC University Residential Semester was made by Ms. Sayeda Sarwat Abed, Director of Center for Language (CfL). On behalf of the students, Mr. Ameeruddin Zain, the Semester Secretary received the guest and gave welcome speech. The Campus Super concluded the session with vote of thanks to the Guest of Honor and others. Mr. Rudmila Ahmed, students of BBS and Mr. Abu Hamid Md. Ismail, student of ECE jointly facilitated the session. The session was followed by dinner.

➤ The Residential Semester (RS) Day of Fall-08 semester was held on November 11, 2008. Mr. Saidul Huq, Director of The Blind Education and Rehabilitation Development Organization (BERDO), was the Guest of Honor. In a session at *Markuli Hall*, Mr. Mantu Shahriar Mehedi, the campus secretary, received the Guest of Honor by a welcome speech. Mr. Huq delivered a speech on how he faced the challenges of life of a visually impaired person and how his organization works to make blind people self-dependent. After the speech of Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Ms. Nusrat Jahan Khusbu, the semester secretary, concluded the session by thanking the guests and others. Ms. Audity Nowshin, a student, facilitated the session. A dinner party was followed by the session.



Parents Day

In the afternoon of 26th March, 2008, BRAC University Savar Campus organized a “Parents Day” for the parents/guardians of the students of Spring 2008. The Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed warmly welcomed the parents and facilitated an informal session with the parents. It was a one-hour session and 150 parents/guardians attended in the session. The House Tutors, Lab Tutors, Librarian, Services Manager of TARC were present in the session. A brief picture of the Residential Semester was presented by the Campus Super and facilitated the Question-Answer Session. The parents had free time to interact with their children and visit the campus. They visited the students' dorms and enjoyed a cultural program organized by the students.

Most of the guardians expressed their feelings and gave positive opinion about the Residential Semester and their children's performance. Some of the parents recommended increasing the duration of the Residential Semester at Savar. It was realized that the parents consider the Residential Semester as an effective learning through a process of education that is very important for their children's life. It was understood that they are very much happy with this initiative to have such a “Parents Day” with them and with the Residential Semester activities. The “Parents Day” was a successful event for the Residential Semester. It will hopefully help building a bridge between parents/guardians and the BRAC University which will lead to influence them acting as ambassadors for BRAC University.

Seminars

A seminar on gender ethics was held on 15th November, 2008 as a part of the course Ethics & Culture (HUM 103). Ms. Shipa Hafiza, head of the Human Resource Department of BRAC, was the guest speaker.

Focus Group Discussion(FGD)

A Focus Group Discussion was held in Residential Semester on 17th November, 2008. The discussion was facilitated by the Pro-Vice

Chancellor of BRAC University, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed. As representatives of different dorms and departments total 18 students participated in the discussion. The students told which aspects of the three compulsory courses in RS they liked and did not like. They also gave their suggestions to improve these courses. The campus super and some of the faculty members also participated in this FGD.

Center for Language (CfL) Activities

- Center for Language (CfL) organized various co-curricular activities in Residential Semester. On February 15th – 16th, 2008, the first CfL weekend activities were held. This semester CfL offered a good number of activities. The activities included Yoga, pottery designing, glass painting, photo-frame designing, cooking, tie & die, jewelry box making, fruits and vegetables carving, creative writing, poster making, fashion show and Thai language. Students beside their academic courses actively took part in these co-curricular activities.
- The Center for Language (CfL) organized various co-curricular activities during this month on the EI-Pro (former name of CfL) weekend on 27th – 28th March, 2008. These included sessions on pottery, fruits and vegetable carving, cooking, glass painting, Thai class and Yoga. In addition, on 27th March, there was a one-day long seminar on nutrition and grooming. On 28th March, a seminar on drugs was facilitated by Brother Donald. The students took active part in all CfL activities.
- The Center for Language (CfL) Weekend was held on October 18, 2008 for the students residing at Savar Campus. The students enjoyed several activities such as funky necklace making, glass/lampshade/tray painting, debate, photography, cooking, sketching, food carving and quiz competition. More importantly, the students were able to explore the authentic use of English in each

activity as well. Ms. Sunida Witayakarn, a Thai CfL instructor, conducted a Nutrition Talk focusing on the importance of healthy food for young adults, sources of nutrition with the touch on eating habits and eating disorders (mainly Anorexia and Bulimia). The aim of the Talk was to show the importance of necessary nutrition in students, improve better eating habit and increase the awareness of eating disorders. Then, Ms. Sadra N. Siddiky, another CfL instructor, facilitated the seminar on “Community Living”. The focus was on challenges of dorm life, “FaceBook” etiquettes, student-teacher relationship on “FaceBook”, classroom behaviour and elevator etiquette. This interactive session was designed to help the students be aware of their surroundings and learn how to conduct themselves in a social context. Ms. Siddiky also arranged another seminar on grooming. The focus was of the seminar was on business etiquette, social awareness, dining etiquette, and personal hygiene. The session was interactive, and the students engaged in brainstorming in groups and then present their ideas. The seminar was designed to help the students to achieve professional excellence as future leaders.

- The second CfL Weekend was held on 22nd November, 2008 for the students residing at Savar Campus. The students continued exploring the different uses of English language in authentic atmosphere in their selected activities. Apart from the outstanding performances in debate on the topic of “Is Media More Powerful than the Government?” there were also other activities such as funky necklace making, glass/lampshade/tray painting, photography, sketching, food carving and quiz competition. The students were also enthusiastic in rehearsing their performances in the Cultural Programme for Savar Final Fair as well.

Cultural Programs and Activities

- The student of Film Club organized a film

show at *Murchona* on 25th January, 2008 and at *Markuly* on 27th January, 2008.

- On 30th January, 2008 the students in Savar Campus experienced a beautiful, enjoyable and amusing cultural evening organized and participated by the students of Residential Semester. The audience reveled in the rendition of music, dance, fashion show and Drama to their heart's content.
- The Residential Semester students organized *Shoroshoti Puja* on 11th February, 2008 in Savar Campus. The program started at 8:50 am. The students recite the “Panchatantra” in the morning, and in the evening they took part in an exclusive dance by wearing different color of festoons. Honorable Vice Chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed and Director of Center for Language (CfL) Ms. Syeda Sarwat Abed visited the ceremony.
- The Savar Campus students experienced a wonderful cultural evening, organized and participated by the Residential Semester students on 13th February, 2008. The cultural program presented music, dance, fashion show and drama.
- With the spirit of “Aumar Ekushey”, the Savar Campus students observed “Shaheed Day” and “International Mother Language Day” at BRAC University campus, Savar. BRAC University & TARC staffs took part in “Probhat Ferry” (the Morning Procession) at 12.01 AM and placed floral wreaths at the *Shaheed Minar*. The staffs from TARC also built a temporary *Shaheed Minar* in the campus.
- Two issues of Activity Newsletter of Residential Semester (RS) at Savar Campus were published on 20th March and 31st March, 2008. Each of the four dorms brought out colorful, innovative and ingenious publications. The Newsletters of *Surjoroshmi* (girls' dorm) and *Maloncho* (boys' dorm) were considered as the best in the first and the second issues, respectively.

- The “Independence Day” of Bangladesh was observed on 26th March, 2008 with various colorful events where students and staffs participated. The day started with hoisting the National Flag at 08:45 a.m. Then the sports competition (Indigenous games like cock fight, kanamachi, bouchhi, ha-do-do, etc.) started and continued up to lunch hour. After the lunch, a cultural function was organized. The celebration of the Independence Day was concluded by an improved dinner.
- The Savar Campus experienced three beautiful, enjoyable and amusing cultural evening organized and participated by the students on 8th, 15th and 22nd October, 2008. The audience enjoyed music, dance, fashion show and drama in the cultural program.
- The Residential Semester students organized a *Dewali* Celebration party on 28th October, 2008. The program started at 6:00 pm with candle-lit decoration in the Savar Campus. In the evening they took part in exclusive dances wearing colorful dresses.
- The inter-dorm chess competition in Savar Campus was has been organized successfully On 12th – 13th February, 2008. Boy's dorm *Maloncho* became champion and girl's dorm *Surjoroshmi* became runner-up in the competetion.
- Residential Semester inter-dorm football final match was played between two boys dormitories, *Nikunjo* Vs *Maloncho* on 14th February, 2008. *Nikunjo* became the champion by 3-2 goals and Mr. Ishtiaque khan was awarded as the best player in Spring-08.
- The inter-dorm handball competition was held among the girls' Dorms On 16th February, 2008. Grils' dorm *Surjoroshmi* became champion by 8-2 goals, defeating another girls' dorm *Surjalok*. Ms. Nabila became the best handball player in Spring-08.
- The inter-dorm badminton competition was held among the girls dorms, On 18th February, 2008. *Surjoroshmi* became the champion by 2 - 0 set in singles and *Surjalok* became the champion 2 - 0 set in doubles.

Sports and other Activities

- On 1st January, 2008 an Open Badminton Competition was held among students. Students were divided into two groups of male and female students.
- The inter-dorm quiz competition has been organized successfully on 3rd February, 2008. The dorm *Nikunjo* became the champion and the dorm *Maloncho* became the runner-up in the competetion. Mr. Abdur Rahman from *Maloncho* became the best participant of the Quiz Competition in Spring 08 Residential Semester.
- The inter-dorm carom competition was held among the girl's dorms on 4th February, 2008 at *Surjoroshmi* Dorm. *Surjoroshmi* Dorm became champion in both single and double carom competition by defeating other girl's dorm *Surjalok*.
- On 18th February, 2008, the inter-dorm Table Tennis competition was held among the boys dorms. *Nikunjo* became champions in both singles and doubles by 2 - 0 set.
- An open mix badminton competition was held at Savar Campus from 23rd - 28th February, 2008. It is the first time that Residential Semester organized such kind of competition. Twenty-four teams were registered for that tournament. The Campus Super also participated in the tournament. Mr. Jakir & Ms. Eshita became the champion and Mr. Ovi & Ms. Nansy became the runner-up.
- The inter-dorm cricket competition final was held on 29th February, 2008, among the boy's dorms. *Maloncho* became champion by defeating *Nikunjo*. *Nikunjo* won the toss

and decided to field first. *Maloncho* scored 179 runs and *Nikunjo* scored 157 runs by 10 wickets. Mr. Maesbaul Haque became the best cricketer in Spring-08. He scored 74 runs and took 2 wickets.

- The inter-dorm athletics competition was held among the girls and boys dorms on 13th and 27th March, 2008. Girls' dorm *Surjoroshi* and boys' dorm *Nikunjo* jointly became champions and *Maloncho* (boys' dorm) and *Surjalok* (girls' dorm) both were the runners-up. Mr. Md. Asif Imteaz and Ms. Anne Drong were the best athletes of Residential Semester Spring-08.
- The Debate Competition was held on 23rd - 24th March, 2008 between the dorms. Boys' dorm *Nikunjo* became the champion and girls' dorm *Surjoroshi* became the runner-up. Mr. Ameeruddin Zain, leader of *Nikunjo* team was adjudged as the best debater.
- On 13th March, 2008, the inter-dorm girls' cricket competition was held among the girls' dorms. *Surjoroshi* dorm became champion by defeating *Surjalok* dorm. Ms. Farzana Rifat became the best cricketer of the Residential Semester Spring-08.
- On 14th March, 2008 the inter-dorm volleyball competition was held among the boys' dorms. *Maloncho* became champion by defeating *Nikunjo*. Mr. Herok was the best volleyball player of Residential Semester Spring-08.
- The inter-dorm handball competition for girls was held between *Surjomukhi* and *Surjoroshi* dorms on 10th October, 2008. *Surjomukhi* won by 10-2 goals defeating *Surjoroshi*. In another game on 17th October, 2008, *Surjoroshi* won by 9-3 goals defeating *Surjalok*.
- The inter-dorm cricket competition for boys was held on October 10, 2008, among *Nikunjo* and *Krisnochura* dorms. *Nikunjo* scored 179 runs and won by 91 runs. On the other hand on October 31, 2008, a second cricket match was held between *Nikunjo*

and *Maloncho*. In that game *Nikunjo* won by 8 wickets.

- The inter-dorm badminton competition was held among the girls' dorms on October 13, 2008. *Surjomukhi* became the champion by 1-0 set and *Surjalok* became the runner-up.
- The finals of different tournaments that were scheduled in Fall-08 Residential Semester were held in November. Girls' dorm *Surjoroshi* became the champion beating *Surjomukhi* by 14-12 goals in girls' final match on handball tournament, held on 7th November, 2008. In the badminton final of girls which took place on 14th November, 2008, *Surjomukhi* achieved the championship and *Surjalok* became runner-up. Boy's dorm *Nikunjo* became the champion and *Maloncho* became the runner-up in boys' cricket final match, held on the same day. In girls' cricket final on 28th November, 2008, *Surjalok* became the champion and *Surjomukhi* the runner-up. In the boys' volleyball final, held on the same day, *Nikunjo* became the champion and *Maloncho* became the runner-up.

Study Tours

- The students of Residential Semester Spring 2008 visited the *National Museum* and *Muktijoddha Museum* on 22nd March, 2008. The students were divided into two groups for in-depth observation of the places. The students were guided by the teachers and house tutors. Based on the observations, the students gave a presentation and submitted their reports to the concerned teachers.
- The students of Residential Semester Fall 2008 visited the *Muktijoddha Museum* on 11th November, 2008. The students gave a presentation and submitted their reports to the concerned teachers expressing their views on Liberation War after they finished their visit.
- As a part of the community service students of Residential Semester Summer-08 visited

Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), Savar. The students visited various activities and programs of CRP. The students were moved by seeing the plight of the paralyzed people of CRP who are undergoing treatment. In a feedback meeting followed by the visit the students expressed their gratefulness to BRAC University and the Bangladesh Studies Program to provide them the opportunity of such visit which raise their awareness about paralyzed citizens of our country and remove the common misconceptions about the physically challenged, and any stigma that they previously associated with being physically disabled. On the observations, the students submitted their reports to the concerned Faculty.

- The students of Residential Semester Fall-08 visited Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) in October and November, 2008. The CRP authority

showed a documentary film to give the students a primary idea of the history and activities of CRP. After that students started to see different sections of CRP. In each section there was a person from CRP who was in charge of making the students understand the activities of that section. The students were filled in sympathy after seeing the people who were physically injured in different accidents. The students were charmed to see the different initiatives of CRP to bring them to normal life and the effectiveness of those initiatives.

- The students of Fall-08 went to Liberation War Museum. At first, they saw a documentary on the history of Liberation War. Then they went from one room to another of the museum and looked at the reminders of the liberation war. The purpose of the tour was to make the history of Liberation War more alive and realistic in the imagination of the students.

Programs	Spring			Summer			Fall			Grand Total		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
ARC	8	12	20	8	15	23	0	0	0	16	27	43
BBA	33	36	69	70	52	122	46	40	86	149	128	277
ENG	2	7	9	0	5	5	0	11	11	2	23	25
CSE	1	2	3	7	6	13	14	10	24	22	18	40
ECE	35	10	45	34	34	68	23	2	25	92	46	138
ECO	1	0	1	5	6	11	2	2	4	8	8	16
LLB	2	3	5	3	6	9	4	8	12	9	17	26
PHY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	82	70	152	127	124	251	89	73	162	298	267	565

CAREER SERVICES OFFICE

Career Services Office (CSO) is progressively working to assist students becoming successful professionals for past 7 years and preparing students for their career by providing a knowledge base in career planning skills & tools. An interactive website has been launched to speed up students' registration for internship and Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP). This website will also act as a job portal for students. Currently 546 students are actively registered with our website with a complete resume database. 2008 has been a year full of events with a wide range of activities to increase student's involvement in professional networking and career enhancement organized by CSO.

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

British American Tobacco's Battle of Minds – A Case Competition

Four participants for the Battle of Minds Case Competition – Tanveer Reza Rouf (ESS) Tanvir Ahmed Dhaly (BBS), Omar K. Sherniabat (BBS) and Mariam Binte Faruk (BBS) – has been selected for the second round for the "Battle of Minds" contest of BATB. The Group presented a case on "Aarong: Making a Global Brand from Bangladesh". The final competition will be held on the 24th of January 2008.

BRAC Bank Road Show 2008

Mr. Tahniyat Ahmed Karim, Head of HR, BRAC Bank has conducted the BRAC Bank Road Show on March 04, 2008. The session gave insight on the MTO recruitment procedure. In year 2008 MTO recruitment four of our BRAC graduates were recruited later on.

Standard Chartered Networking Session 2008

Mr. Alamgir Morshed on March 13, 2008 at BRACU Campus has conducted the Standard



Chartered Networking Session. During the session their International Graduate recruitment program were briefed and an insights about Standard Chartered were presented.

On-campus career workshop with Jobstreet.Com

Mr. Khu Wei Ren, Regional Sales Manager, JobStreet.com on Thursday, June 19, 2008 has carried out the workshop. Workshop focused on the Human Resource Management policies and recruitment dimensions of multinational companies. The workshop included discussion on techniques of facing interviews, CV writing, corporate etiquettes and many other career related issues.

Session on presentation skills: To improve the presentation skills of students, CSO has organized a seminar on "Introduction to Presentational Speaking" on June 26, Thursday 2008. Mr. Raihan Jamil, Ph.D student of Purdue University, Indiana, USA lead the seminar and talked about different ways of being of a good speaker in front of audiences. He shared his views and ideas among the participating students.

Seminar by Canadian High Commission: Ms Shaheen Islam, Sr. Academics, Public Affairs, High Commission of Canada gave a wide view on higher education for prospective students willing to pursue education in Canada on Thursday, June 26, 2008.

Job-ICT Private Ltd. (JIPL) Road Show on Soft Skills Development

Ms. Tatiana Palvosky, HR Specialist, JIPL gave a presentation on related on July 09, 2008. The Road Show focused how to enhance proficiency



of students from different disciplines to confidently to get a smoother career ladder.

Mini Job Fair Sponsored by bdjobs.com

Bdjobs.com organized Campus Career Festival at BRAC University co-organized by CSO for two consecutive days, August 13 and August 14, 2008. The objective was to create a bridging activity between the prospective employers and new graduates. This event gives excellent opportunity to the employers for 'early booking' of the competent fresh and prospective graduates. The festival held in Indoor Games at BRACU. Nine organizations participated in the fair namely; Spectrum Engineering Consortium Ltd, ACI, Citycell, Gemcon Group, Eduaid, Macomm, Amiable Tech Solutions Inc, Bdjobs.com Ltd and e-Generation Ltd. During the fair approximately 300 resumes were collected and 137 interviews were made. Some on spot jobs were also offered by Gemcon and e-Generation Ltd.



A workshop on scholarship opportunities at Monash University:

On August 25, 2008 a workshop was held on “possible scholarship opportunity for BRACU/Bangladeshi students at Monash”. The workshop was conducted by Dr Hoa Levitas, Regional Manager for international relations, marketing and student recruitment, Monash University, Australia.

Workshop on “Cracking Assessment Center”

On Saturday, November 15th, 2008, the workshop on “Cracking Assessment Center” was held. The workshop was conducted by Masrur Ali (Recruitment Manager), Mr. Shovan Chakraborty (Field Operation Manager), Sabina Yasmin (MTO), Adrita Datta (HR planning and Development Manager) from Peoplescape. The workshop emphasized issues related to an assessment center and how to encounter it while a recruitment process.

Job Placements

According to our graduate database of year 2008, 68% of our graduates have successfully secured employment, 06% students are perusing higher education either at home or abroad and 25% of them are unemployed. Our star employers are being BRAC Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, HSBC, Grameenphone, Care Bangladesh, British American Tobacco., Bangladesh, Ascent Group Ltd and so on speaks about our reputation, quality of our students and their reparation for the job market.

Table : Full-Time Employment Data (Undergraduate)

	Employed	Unemployed	Pursuing Higher Education	Data not available
ARC	80%	20%	0%	0%
BBA	70%	20%	9%	1%
CSE	77%	15%	8%	0%
CS	54%	36%	8%	2%
ECE	51%	40%	5%	4%
ENH	77%	23%	0%	0%
ECO	55%	27%	18%	0%
LLB	80%	20%	0%	0%
Average %	68%	25%	6%	1%

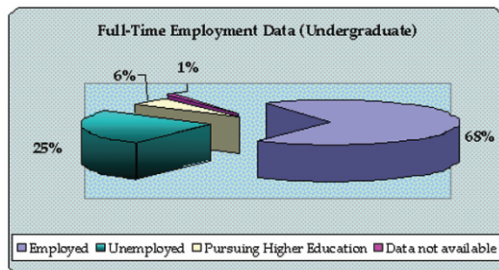


Fig 1: Full-Time Employment Data (Undergraduate) 2008

Table : Full-Time Employment Data (Postgraduate)

	Employed	Unemployed
MBA	83%	17%
ENH	100%	0%
ECO	100%	0%
MPH	80%	20%
MDS	100%	0%
Biotechnology	100%	0%
MDM	100%	0%
MAGD	100%	0%
Average %	95%	5%

On an average 95% of graduate program students are excellently employed, which is 13% higher than last year. Among the unemployed, 5% are mostly voluntarily unemployed.

Internship Placements

Internship is a twelve-week professional attachment with an organization and is

Internship Placed by Statistics, Year 2008

Fig 2: Internship placed by statistics of year 2008.

mandatory for students of BBA discipline. Students earn 4 credits for this attachment. For MBA students it is mandatory yet it is a non-credit course. Students from other disciplines internship is optional and may avail an internship upon completion of all course work. A number of 179 BBA students registered for Internship in year 2008. All of them were placed for either for internship or job in due time.

Table : Internship Placed by Statistics

Placed by	Number	%
CSO	102	57%
Self	77	43%
Total	179	100%

On an average 57% of the intern placement were made by CSO and 43% students managed placements positively by self initiative, portraying higher acceptance and demand of BRACU graduates.

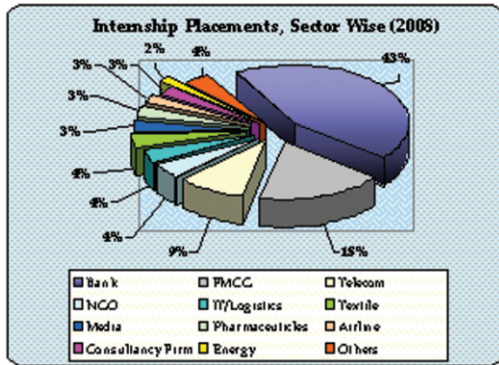


Fig 3: Sector Wise Internship Placements 2008

During 2008 the internship placements were secured in a range of industries showing students' interest in exploring various sectors. However banking sector getting priority among the BBA students and FMCG sector is second on the list. Our students' qualities are being

recognized among major corporate houses and they are successfully competing in the current job market.

Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP)

CSO, BRAC University has been successfully coordinating Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP) for all final semester undergraduate students for past 9 semesters. This program is designed in such a way that assist's our future graduates to prepare for their upcoming career with professionalism. Every semester over a hundred students are enrolled for PSDP. In 2008, 322 students have completed graduation and on an average 98% of the students successfully have completed all the modules before graduating. The program is conducted by successful professionals every semester and is consisted of ten modules.

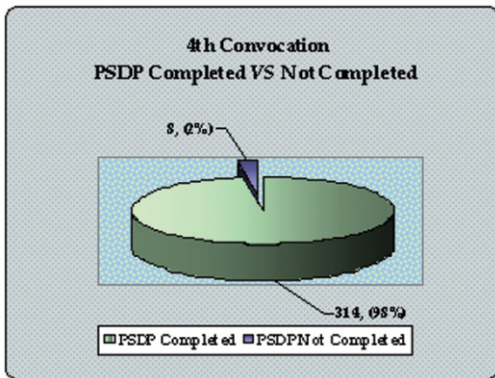


Fig 4: Students PSDP Completion Status 2008

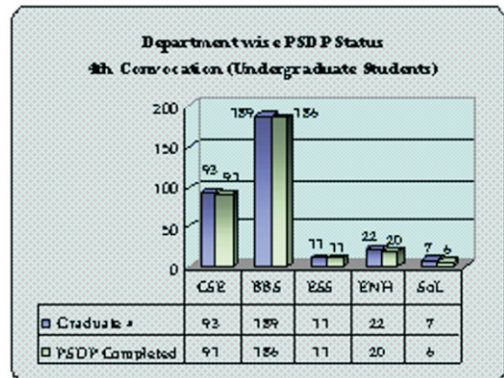


Fig 5: PSDP Completion Stat Department Wise

CENTER FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT LEARNING NETWORK

Center for Global Development Learning Network (GDLN)

BRAC University is the one and only affiliate of the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) (<http://www.gdln.org>) in Bangladesh and has been operating since 2006. This centre is coordinated by the World Bank from Washington D.C. The GDLN is a partnership of over 120 recognized global institutions (affiliates) in over 80 countries that collaborate in the design of customized learning solution for individuals and organizations working in development. Affiliates are as diverse as the Asian Institute of Management, the Ethiopian Civil Service College, the Islamic Development Bank and Pontificia Universidad Catolica of Peru. The centre for GDLN at BRAC University has its own Video Conferencing Centre. This is located at the 18th floor of Aarong House and is used to conduct live meetings, corporate affairs, seminars and presentations among people who are geographically apart. Furthermore, it enables virtual tours and participation in global events. Around 40 people can participate at a time.

GDLN Activities

➤ Participation in a Workshop organized by GDLN in Sri Lanka DLC

Dr. Anwar Islam, Professor, James P. Grant School of Public Health, Ali Salman, Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) Coordinator and BBA Program Coordinator, Fahima Khanam, Senior System Administrator, Dr. Tanvir Ahmed, Reserch Associate James P. Grant, School of Public health participated in a 5-day workshop organized by the World Bank Institute and GDLN South Asia titled as

“Designing Learning Interventions that Last” held From February 11-15, 2008 at Sri Lanka Distance Learning Center (DLC), Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The overall goal of this hands-on workshop was to enable participants to design effective and interactive learning interventions using what is called “blended” learning techniques. Blended learning refers to the practice of using of a combination of technologies such as web based tools, videoconferencing, print materials, and face-to-face methods in an appropriate mix for a specific audience, rather than relying on a single technology or method.

Participants in the workshop was introduced to a step-by-step design process that will enable them to make the right design decisions by analyzing audience, defining learning objectives, identifying methods, and selecting delivery modes and tools. Utilizing case studies as a foundation, participants had the opportunity to design concrete learning interventions that apply sound pedagogical practices and employ a range of appropriate technologies. The workshop was practical and hands-on, providing participants with skills and techniques that they can immediately apply on-the-job.

➤ Multi-country Videoconference Discussion on “Impact of Macro-level Shocks on South Asia Poverty Reduction Efforts” by GDLN

A two-hour, multi-country videoconference discussion on “Impact of Macro-level Shocks on South Asia Poverty Reduction Efforts” was held at BRAC University on February 26, 2008. Participants from six South Asian countries were connected through a program organized in collaboration with Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) and the World Bank. The countries were Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

The session began at 6:00 pm with a presentation from the World Bank Head Quarter in Washington D. C. by Dr. Shantayanan

Devarajan, Chief Economist, South Asia Region of the World Bank. South Asia is the largest net importer of oil and food relative to its GDP. Between 2002 and 2007, global crude prices have increased by 185%, metal and mineral prices by 236%, and agricultural prices by 68%. The major two inputs to agriculture energy and fertilizer costs have increased in recent years, leading to a rise in food price. Besides, certain countries are using a substantial portion of their food crops, like wheat, maize and sugar for producing bio-fuels. On top of that, hostile climatic conditions and export bans by several countries have attributed to a global shortage of food. The bad news for South Asian countries is that global demand for bio-fuel will increase in coming years, and so food prices are expected to remain high and there is no sign of relief in the foreseeable future.

The presentation was followed by a cross-country discussion, moderated by Mr. Ejaz Ghani, Economic Adviser, South Asia PREM, World Bank, while the whole session was coordinated by Mr. Juan Blazquez, GDLN South Asia. The discussants were trying to address the fundamental questions (i) how have the external price shocks (in oil and food) affected domestic prices in your country?, (ii) what have been the effects on inflation, the fiscal deficit, and balance of payments?, and (iii) how can governments cushion the impact of these shocks on the poor?

Discussant from the participating countries volleyed questions to the presenter and sometimes came up with answers themselves. In order to cushion the impact of price shock on the poor, participants suggested that SA Governments should take both short term and long term measures. This include providing smart subsidies on essentials, especially oil, and building up buffer stocks as short term measures, while pooling up resources among SA countries for using them to expand supply in the long run was also considered.

Among others, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, representatives

from World Bank Dhaka Office, Planning Commission, Financial Express, SABINCO, and teacher and students of the University of Development Alternative (UODA) took part in the discussion.

➤ **Video Conference on Bird Flu held at BRAC University**

A distance learning seminar organized by the World Bank, FAO, OIE and the Tokyo Development Learning Center on “Vaccination against Avian Influenza: Issues and Strategies within the Context of an Overall Control Program” were held at BRAC University Video Conference Center on 19th March 2008. In this seminar, led by specialists from FAO, OIE and the World Bank, participants discussed use of poultry vaccination in the context of an overall AHI control program. The seminar also discussed (a) Rationale - choosing to vaccinate, allowing vaccination, or choosing not to vaccinate; (b) Vaccination Strategies - start dates, planned durations and exit strategies, types of vaccines, targeting poultry production sectors and/or regions, monitoring of vaccination and virus circulation, and for countries which do not vaccinate, and alternative control measures; (c) Practicalities of Implementation; (d) Results - vaccine coverage and observed efficacy, cost of vaccination and funding sources, observed constraints, successes and weaknesses; (e) Perspectives - short, medium, long-term plans, exit strategies, and (f) Support - needed to improve the a country's vaccination strategy and/or to address challenges to implementation, and possible solutions. The event connected through Real Time Video Conference with Cotonou, Abuja, Cairo, Dhaka (BRAC University GDLN Center), Jakarta, Paris, Rome (FAO) Tokyo (TDLC) and Washington DC (GDLN Studio). For more information on World Bank report on Bird Flu, please go to: <http://www.worldbank.org/avianflu>.

➤ **Video Conference on Strengthening Links between South Asia and Africa**

A multi-country two-hour videoconference discussion, connecting participants from

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka took place at BRAC University GDLN Center Thursday, March 13, 2008 on “Trade and Growth Dialogue between South Asia and Africa Strengthening links between South Asia and Africa”. The Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed attended the program.

The session started with a brief introductory presentation by Harry Broadman, Economic Advisor for the Africa Region of the World Bank and author of the recent book Africa “Silk Road: China and India” New Economic Frontier, and introductory remarks by four representatives of the private and public sectors in South Asia and Africa. A multi-country discussion followed with a focus on highlighting and discussing key issues, historical and recent trends, challenges and priority areas of collaboration for enhanced trade between South Asia and Africa, as well as potential opportunities ahead. For more information on South Asia Regional Integration, please go to the website: <http://www.worldbank.org/sarintegration>.

➤ **Video Conference on “Consultation on South Asian Research, Education and Innovation (SARENI)”**

South Asia Regional Cooperation GDLN Dialogue: “Consultation on South Asian Research, Education and Innovation (SARENI)”, took place on March 11, 2008 through Video Conference being organized by the World Bank South Asia Regional Cooperation Program held at BRAC University Video Conference Center. The key speakers were Professor Tissa Vitarana, Minister of Science and Technology, Sri Lanka, Dr. Mohammad Azam Dadfar, Minister of Higher Education, Afghanistan, Professor Att-ur-Rahman, Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan and Dr. Sam Pitroda, Chairman, India's National Knowledge Commission. From BRAC University our Adviser to the Governing Board Dr. Riaz Khan attended the session with the members of UGC on his side.

This was part of World Bank's regional integration dialogue series aimed at promoting cross-country learning with a focus on cross-border externalities. There are untapped positive synergies at the South Asia regional level in terms of information sharing and competition in ideas between universities, non-university research and teaching entities, libraries, hospitals, and other knowledge institutions. A regional high-bandwidth, high-speed Internet-based network could help spur such benefits, facilitating greater interactions between knowledge workers in areas such as high-energy physics, nanotechnology, and medical research. It also could help in the building and sharing of regional databases, and in addressing regional and especially regional-rural problems, including multi-country initiatives such as flood control, disaster management, climate change, and infectious disease control. Importantly, such an effort could help spark higher and more sustainable regional growth.

➤ **Training by APO-Energy Efficiency Organized by GDLN**

This Event was organized by Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in collaboration with National Productivity Organization (NPO) Bangladesh and Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) from June 8-11, 2008 at BRAC University Video Conference Center to provide basic training in elements of energy efficiency focusing on industries and buildings. This course will enable participants to understand the basic principles of measuring the energy performance of selected applications in industry and buildings and to prepare energy management plans for improving energy efficiency. The countries connected by Video Conference were Bangladesh, India, Japan, Cambodia, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.

➤ **Training by APO - Exporting Agri-Food Products to Major Global Markets**

This Event was organized by Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in collaboration with National Productivity Organization (NPO) Bangladesh and Global Development Learning

Network (GDLN) from June 24-26, 2008, at BRAC University Video Conference Center to enhance participants' knowledge on the current trends and emerging opportunities for Agri-food products in major global markets and identify ways by which agribusiness enterprises from member countries can benefit from such trends and opportunities, To enable participants to understand the current and emerging import-related procedures, policies and regulations on imports of agri-food products in major global markets, To enable participants to formulate national and enterprise levels export strategies. The countries connected by Video Conference was Bangladesh, India, Iran, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

➤ **Course offered by World Bank Institute (WBI) with GDLN**

This Course was organized by World Bank Institute (WBI) in collaboration with Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) for selected participants from May 15 to June 12, 2008 (For 5 Weeks) at BRAC University Video Conference Center. The primary objective of the course was to help trade policymakers, advisors, researchers, private operators (in agriculture, industry and services) as well as export support institutions in client developing countries to better understand possible proactive role a government can play in trade finance. This proactive role could be fulfilled in terms of assistance and support to export financing and development of efficient financial markets in order to attenuate/alleviate the lack of trade finance in developing countries, and contribute to trade expansion and facilitation, by mitigating market failures and information asymmetries in developing countries with poor financial markets. The second objective of the course is to help provide a better understanding of trade financing instruments (e.g. Documentary Letters of Credit, Counter Trade, Factoring, Pre-Shipment and Post Shipment Financing, Buyers' and Suppliers' Credits) as well as hands-on practical exercises on Export Credit Insurance (to protect exporters and mitigating the financial impact of risks on the exporter) and Export Credit Guarantees (to protect export financing

banks from losses they may incur stemming from the provision of funds to exporters). Upon reaching the underlying objectives, developing countries may be able to face their chronic balance of payments deficits and promote growth. The countries connected by Video Conference for this session were Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ghana, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.

➤ **South Asia Capacity Building for Bilateral, Purilateral and Multilateral Trade Negotiations**

This Course was organized by World Bank Institute (WBI) in collaboration with Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) for selected participants from May 28 to June 25, 2008 (For 5 Weeks) at BRAC University Video Conference Center. The primary objective of the course is to help trade policymakers, advisors, researchers, private operators (in agriculture, industry and services) as well as export support institutions in client developing countries to better understand possible proactive role a government can play in trade finance. This proactive role could be fulfilled in terms of assistance and support to export financing and development of efficient financial markets in order to attenuate/alleviate the lack of trade finance in developing countries, and contribute to trade expansion and facilitation, by mitigating market failures and information asymmetries in developing countries with poor financial markets. The second objective of the course is to help provide a better understanding of trade financing instruments (e.g. Documentary Letters of Credit, Counter Trade, Factoring, Pre-Shipment and Post Shipment Financing, Buyers' and Suppliers' Credits) as well as hands-on practical exercises on Export Credit Insurance (to protect exporters and mitigating the financial impact of risks on the exporter) and Export Credit Guarantees (to protect export financing banks from losses they may incur stemming from the provision of funds to exporters). Upon reaching the underlying objectives, developing countries may be able to face their chronic balance of payments deficits and promote growth. he countries connected by Video

Conference for this session were Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

➤ **Training by APO - e-Learning Course on the Toyota Production System**

This Event was organized by Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in collaboration with National Productivity Organization (NPO) Bangladesh and Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) from 11th Aug to 13th Aug, 2008 at BRAC University Video Conference Center to provide basic training to understand the methodology of the Toyota Production System, its application, and critical success factors. This course will enable participants to use the knowledge in setting up flexible production systems for small-quantity production in their own production processes. The countries connected by Video Conference were Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

➤ **“The Social Accountability Management System: SA8000”**

This course was organized by Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in collaboration with National Productivity Organization (NPO) Bangladesh and Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) of the world Bank Platform from 14th Oct 08 to 16th Oct, 2008 at BRAC University Video Conference Center. The intent of SA8000 is to provide a standard based on international human rights norms and national labor laws that will protect and empower all personnel within a company's scope of control and influence, who produce products or provide services for that company, including personnel employed by the company itself, as well as by its Suppliers/subcontractors, sub-suppliers, and home workers. SA8000 is verifiable through an evidenced-based process. Its requirements apply universally, regardless of a company's size, geographic location, or industry sector. Complying with the requirements for social accountability of this standard will enable a company to: a) Develop, maintain, and enforce policies and procedures in order to manage those issues which it can control or influence; b)

Credibly demonstrate to interested parties that existing company policies, procedures, and practices conform to the requirements of this standard. The countries connected by Video Conference were Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, and Thailand.

➤ **An e-Learning Course on “ISO 22000:2005 Food Safety Management System”**

This course was also organized by Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in collaboration with National Productivity Organization (NPO) Bangladesh and Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) of the World Bank Platform from 28th Oct to 31st Oct 2008 at BRAC University Video Conference Center. The intent of ISO22000 is to provide a framework of internationally harmonized standards for the global food supply chains. It covers all organizations in the food chain from farmers to caterers and defines the requirements for a food safety management system. ISO 22000:2005 can help the food industry to minimize the need for compliance over multiple certification programs. Overall, ISO 22000:2005 assumes that the most effective food safety systems are designed, operated and continually improved within the frame work of a structured management system and incorporated into a company's overall management activities. The countries connected by Video Conference were Bangladesh, Indonesia, I. R. Iran, Malaysia, and Pakistan.

➤ **An e-Learning Course on “Training of Trainers on Microfinance”**

The Fifth delivery of the Microfinance Training of Trainers course (MFTOT5) was organized by The Tokyo Development Learning centre (TDLC) in collaboration with ADBI and Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) of the World Bank Platform from July to October 2008, 2008 at BRAC University Video Conference Center. Microfinance is recognized as an effective development intervention in enhancing access to financial services for low-income and poverty-level individuals. While there is great demand for microfinance services,

the main constraint is not a lack of funds but a lack of capacity in operating a sustainable institution. To address this problem, the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC), which is a member of GDLN Asia Pacific, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Launched the Microfinance Training of Trainers (MFTOT) Course in 2005. The last session was held on 31st Oct, 08 among the four videoconferencing sessions organized

under the 5th Distant Learning Course on Training of Trainers on Microfinance (MFTOT). In this Video Conference, the resource speaker, Mr. Nimal A. Fernando, who discussed policy, regulation and supervision of microfinance based on a broader definition of microfinance. The participants were from different private sectors and Non Governmental Organizations. Two of the BBS faculties, Mr. Anup Chowdhury and Mr. Edward Probir Mondol also participated in this course from BRAC University.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

BRACU provided a number of scholarships and financial assistance for students. These supports were available to students who:

- Performed well in their HSC/ SSC or O/A Levels prior to joining BRACU
- Performed well in BRACU
- BRAC-FORD students
- Children of BRAC employees
- Had other siblings studying at BRACU
- Were physically challenged

- Were financially disadvantaged (need-based).

Furthermore, all female students continued getting a waiver of Taka 500 per credit for every course they take.

Financial Aid-2008

Sl	Semester 2008	Amount in Tk.
01	Spring	1,04,74,949.00
02	Summer	1,00,03,126.00
03	Fall	92,67,904.00
	Total	2,97,45,979.00

RESOURCES AND FACILITIES FOR LEARNING

Faculty

BRAC University faculty comprises a unique blend of teachers, researchers and practitioners. The faculty consists of a distinguished body of scholars with proven teaching and research excellence. Many have doctoral degrees from universities abroad. Many are postgraduate degree holders and professionals with varied experience. Visiting faculty members from USA, Canada, UK, Australia and other countries bring diversity and richness in the learning environment.

Campus

The present campus of BRAC University is located at Mohakhali in Dhaka City. The campus has excellent communication links to all parts of the city as well as outside the city. Different means of transports including taxis, CNG's, rickshaws, and buses are readily available around the campus. Moreover, the campus is situated five minutes away from Mohakhali's primary bus stands. The five-storied University Building accommodates a lounge, an information desk, a student counseling office, classrooms, seminar rooms, computer laboratories, the Registrar's office, administrative office, Accounts office, Executive floor, a cafeteria, a student's common room and a semi outdoor sitting plaza (Prangan). BRAC University occupies eighteen floors of Aarong House (AH), a twenty-storied building situated adjacent to the University building. The BU library extends over two floors of this structure. BRAC Business School (BBS), Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), English and Humanities (ENH) Department, Center for Language (CfL), classrooms, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS), computer labs and internet facilities for students are also located there. The University also occupies six floors of

Civil Engineers Bhaban (CB), a building located a block away from the main University building. These floors house the Departments of Architecture (ARC), Economics and Social Sciences (ESS), Schools of Law and Public Health. The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) is located in Gulshan, while the Institute of Educational Development (IED) is in Niketan.

The University plans to shift its activities to the new campus in 4 to 5 years. The process of acquiring land in Badda, Gulshan and constructing the permanent building is under process.

Classrooms

BRAC University has classrooms of various sizes, ranging from regular ones that can hold 30-50 seats, to large ones with a capacity of 80-100 seats. Each classroom is fully air-conditioned and equipped with multimedia projectors, overhead projectors and computers with access to the Internet. Some classrooms have, in addition to these, televisions, VCR and equipments that can be used for teleconferencing. Furthermore, BRAC University has access to facilities at BRAC Centre Inn and BRAC support facilities all over Bangladesh for the use of teachers and students during field visits.

Computer Labs

Currently there are around ten computer labs at Aarong House (AH), including the library, one at the Civil Engineer's Building, four in the Savar campus, including a SPSS lab that is used exclusively by MPH students, and one in the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) at Gulshan. These computer labs have a total of 345 computers, of which 80 are in the Savar campus and 26 are in the Rajendrapur campus. These are all latest model personal computers with built-in multi-media connected to IBM xSeries 226 and 236 Servers by a Windows NT local area network (LAN). For all lab work, there is one computer for each student. Computers are connected to a host of other peripheral devices such as scanners, printers etc.

Suitable UPS units back up electric power supply to all computers and peripheral devices. All labs have multi-media projectors and portable white boards.

Furthermore, stand-by generators back up other electric equipment. All these facilities are continually being upgraded to keep pace with changing technology. Furthermore, all servers have been upgraded with new configurations, as have the student, staff and faculty main servers.

Digital Lab

The purpose of establishing a separate digital lab was to enhance students' understanding of microprocessors, circuits and electronics. This lab contains a wide variety of equipment, including analog and digital oscillo-scopes, trainer boards, PLD trainer boards, microprocessors, digital multimeters, digital chips, analog ammeters, analog voltmeter, wattmeters, rheostats, function generators, inductors, capacitors and other such equipment.

Electronic Systems Laboratory

This laboratory provides support for instruction and research in the areas of basic analog and digital logic design, discrete component testing, fundamental circuit design, microprocessing interfacing, assembly language programming and communication theory. The laboratory is equipped with digital systems development including FPGA/VHDL for advanced course work and thesis research, CAD facilities capable of schematic capture, circuit simulation and fault detection. The lab utilizes various test equipment to include but not limited to oscilloscopes, signal generators, spectrum analyzer, DSO and logic analyzer, multimeters and high-speed data acquisition equipment.

Telecommunication Laboratory

The telecommunications laboratory, a state-of-the-art facility, is fully equipped with hardware and software to support a multitude of instructional and thesis/ project activities on the broad area of analog communication (e.g., AM

and FM) and digital communication, wireless and mobile communications, multimedia communications and network simulation. Lab facilities also include PCM analyzer/ Frame analyzer, PCM performance analyzer and trainer for digital modulation and keying (e.g., PSK, FSK, ASK, QPSK etc).

Signal Processing Laboratory

This laboratory supports instruction and thesis/research in the area of Digital Signal Processing. Research and thesis work include data modeling and processing, image analysis and modeling, signal detection and classification, multi-rate processing and other areas. Lab facilities include several PCs equipped with the latest MIDAS Engineering hardware and standard software package.

Electromagnetics Laboratory

This laboratory supports instruction and project/thesis in the area of microwave systems and technology. This is accomplished with a mix of hardware, instruments and test systems. The Lab facilities include Microwave communications teaching set (scanTEK 2000) with CT60 and CT60IS.

Control Systems Laboratory

This laboratory emphasizes problem based learning and research using pilot plant. Lab facilities include servo control stations (CA06, LJ Group) and associated computers (equipped with A/D and D/A data acquisition cards, Matlab/SIMULINK software and RT-Linux for RTS) that are used to conduct simulations and physical experiments, modeling, analysis, and design of control systems, transducer instrumentation trainer (DigiAC 1750).

Optical Electronics Laboratory

The Optical Electronics Laboratory provides educational and project/thesis support in the areas of fiber optics, integrated optics and electro-optics. The Lab facilities include fiber optics instrumentation (optical fibres DL 3155M63, De Lorenzo Group) set. This laboratory supports ECE340 and ECE410 courses.

Cisco Networking Laboratory

The Cisco Laboratory of BRAC University has the Cisco Premium Bundle 1.6, which includes 2600 routing products, switching products and other support products. Students will learn how to install and configure Cisco switches and routers in multiprotocol networks using local- and wide-area networks (LANs and WANs), provide Level 1 and 2 troubleshooting services, and improve network performance and security. Additionally, instruction and training are provided in the proper care, maintenance, and use of networking software tools and equipment. The laboratory caters to the networking courses into which the CCNA certification Program has been integrated. Along with that this lab is also used for some introductory and intermediate Computer Science and Engineering courses' laboratories.

Linux Laboratory

BRAC University has a dedicated Linux Laboratory using the Fedora Core 6 distribution at the time of this writing. The Linux Laboratory is used for all the advanced Computer Science and Engineering laboratory courses, as well as for some of the introductory and intermediate ones. It is also heavily used for undergraduate thesis projects. The Linux Laboratory is set up so that the software on the client computers can be installed, or upgraded, and managed using a solution that does not require any operator intervention.

Physics Labs

For the undergraduate program in physics, laboratory experiments on different topics of physics have been set up. These labs supplement the theory courses and strengthen students' theoretical concepts. Students of other departments taking physics courses can also carryout experiments using the physics lab facilities in addition to their theory classes.

Mathematics Lab

MNS Department also has a mathematics lab where students solve mathematical problems on calculus, numerical analysis, matrices, ordinary and partial differential equations etc. using the "mathematica" software.

Biotechnology Lab

A unique feature of the Master's in biotechnology course run by the MNS Department is to give emphasis to lab exercises. There are Pharmacy labs in Arong House. There are other labs facilitated by having MOU'S with BRAC ARDC at Gazipur, ICDDR,B and the University of Dhaka. These agreements will make it possible for the students to use these lab facilities whereby they can acquire the very necessary hands on experience. It is also envisaged to set up the different biotechnology labs at BRAC University gradually.

ENH Writing Lab

A Writing Lab a student run writing tutorial centre is instituted at the Department of English and Humanities (ENH) for the students of the department. This centre is aimed to help ENH students identify and overcome various writing difficulties through peer review and individualized tutorial sessions by the students of the department. Each tutor has two designated hours per week for the tutoring task that includes providing support at all stages of the writing process. Students can drop by the Writing Lab during available hours or sign up for a specific slot of time with a specific tutor of their preference.

Video Conferencing Centre

BRAC University is the one and only affiliate of the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) (<http://www.gdln.org>) in Bangladesh and has been operating since 2006. This centre is coordinated by the World Bank from Washington D.C. The GDLN is a partnership of over 120 recognized global institutions (affiliates) in over 80 countries that collaborate in the design of customized learning solution for individuals and organizations working in development. Affiliates are as diverse as the Asian Institute of Management, the Ethiopian Civil Service College, the Islamic Development Bank and Pontificia Universidad Catolica of Peru. The centre for GDLN at BRAC University has its own Video Conferencing Centre. This is located at the 18th floor of Aarong House and is used to conduct live meetings, corporate affairs,

seminars and presentations among people who are geographically apart. Furthermore, it enables virtual tours and participation in global events. Around 40 people can participate at a time.

IT Network

The IT Network of BRAC University enables all members, students and faculty alike, to maintain personal user accounts with an email account and a home folder. In addition to this, all members can access certain common folders. This makes sharing and distribution of class lectures, assignments and other such information a mouse click away. BRAC University now has 620 workstations linked together through Local Area Network (LAN) and Wide Area Network (WAN).

Architecture Studios

There are eight architecture studios at BRAC University, each equipped with large drawing tables, worktables, equipments such as rulers, lockers and plenty of space in which to display the final outcomes. Each of these studios can hold up to 20 students at a time.

BRAC University Cafeteria

The Cafeteria of the university is a spacious and well-lit area that can hold up to 150 students at any given time. It serves a variety of snacks, meals and drinks.

Indoor Games Room

Adjacent to the cafeteria is the Indoor Games Room, with provisions for playing table tennis, carom and chess, etc.

Prangan

Prangan, located on the first floor of the University Building, is an open-air garden with a capacity of 100 students. This area includes a snack bar that serves tea, coffee and snacks, a provision for indoor games such as carom and chess and plenty of seats where students can lounge around and enjoy the fresh air.

Career Services Office (CSO)

The chief mission of the Career Services Office

(CSO) at BRAC University is to prepare students for the job market in Bangladesh. CSO will provide a knowledge base in career planning skills and tools. The activities at CSO are partnership-effort oriented; it makes a match between the individual student and the employing organization. CSO provides a variety of programs, workshops, and individual counseling opportunities to help students to develop themselves professionally. The services provided to students are consistent with the institution's mission.

Teaching Learning Centre (TLC)

The Teaching Learning Centre (TLC) at BRAC University works both with faculty and students to examine attitudes towards teaching and learning. TLC was introduced in the year 2006 with the mission to build awareness among students, encourage and facilitate a student centered learning environment across the departments of the University.

TLC organizes:

- Retreat two-day workshops for teachers
- Two-day orientation workshops for students that introduce as well as implement the concept of self-rules at the Residential Semester
- Study skill workshops for Residential Semester students
- Individual counseling for students with study problems

In addition, TLC offers support in developing student centered learning courses. Recently, it has helped restructure the Ethics and Culture course that is conducted at the Residential Semester of BRAC University. The course now includes self-reflection essays, discovery of self, Ethics Committees and dramas. Evaluation has shown that students now enjoy, participate and learn much more in the course.

Center for Languages (CfL)

Center for Languages (CfL) is devoted exclusively to teaching, training, improving and supporting the English language skills of students and professionals of all stages. All faculty members are English language

specialists with extensive experience in teaching at all levels. The facilities provided by CfL are varied and customized and focused on the maximum output in terms of teaching delivery, assessment, course design and logistics. CfL believes that language learning has a parameter beyond the scope of classrooms. Hence, it involves students in extra-curricular activities in its residential campus in Savar to bring out students' latent potential and talent.

Centre for Research on Bangla Language Processing (CRBLP)

The Centre for Research on Bangla Language Processing (CRBLP) is the only research centre in Bangladesh that is dedicated to software localization. It was established in 2004 with seed funding from the International Development Research Corporation (IDRC) of Canada through its PAN Localization Network (PanL10n) program, and has since secured additional support from the Microsoft Corporation of USA. The CRBLP research team has been working on Bangla Document Authoring, Information Retrieval (Spell Checker, Search Engine), Optical Character Recognition, Speech Processing (Speech Synthesis, Speech Recognition), Pronunciation Generator, Morphological Analysis, Parts of Speech Tagging, Computational Syntax, Grammar Checker, Text Categorization, Language Modeling and related research areas. All of their software is released under an open source license. Please visit the website of CRBLP for details <http://www.bracu.ac.bd/research/crblp/index.php>.

Economics and Social Sciences Research Cell (ESSRC)

The Department of Economics and Social Sciences (ESS) has established a research cell to facilitate research by its faculty and graduate students. The objective of this cell is to create a supporting environment for research by providing services ranging from basic research and data collection, to the broader issues of problem identification and mentoring by senior faculty. The cell organizes regular seminars and workshops as a means to disseminate research

results, and to foster collaboration among the researchers within and beyond the university. The ESS research cell is planning to bring out a journal annually to disseminate original research findings, and to create a database of primary and secondary data.

BRACU Journal

Seven issues of BRACU Journal were published so far from BRAC University. The journals contained articles relevant to the departments of BRAC University. The contributions came from both within and outside BRACU.

Student Affairs

BRAC University's mission is to achieve excellence in all round education. The components of all round education, i.e., learning, development and identity formation are interactive and add to each other. The students can experience all of these through participating in co-curricular activities along with regular studies. University's Student Affairs Office (SAO) provides full support in this respect.

Clubs and Forums

The co-curricular arena of the university is quite vibrant and student-oriented. The composition of each club or forum includes teacher/staff advisors, a coordinator and student representatives. Enrolment of members is done during the club fair held each semester. The Director of the Student Affairs supervises the activities with the help of an assistant director and a department coordination officer. A multi-use hall, two eighty-seat lecture halls, cafeteria and a planted semi-outdoor space with technical support are used for seminars, workshops, exhibitions, indoor games, competitions, fairs and cultural activities. The residential campus in Savar provides a play field for outdoor games. The facilities of BRAC throughout the country such as training centers with dormitories, transport and guides are available for tours and other events.

A yearly award system has been introduced for the students with major contributions as well as

for the most active club. The SAO has currently adopted the 'Ambassador Program', where students good in leadership, time management, collaboration and teamwork are selected from clubs and forums and trained to represent the university.

Annual assessment of the co curricular activities has been conducted since 2006. University rules have been introduced for participating in the activities without hindering academic performance.

The Student Affairs Office emphasizes on the wholeness of university experience through synchronized development of body, mind and spirit. It aims at integrating co curricular with academic learning, and stresses on service learning through community volunteer work.

Ayesha Abed Library

The Ayesha Abed Library a BRAC University aims to provide support for the University's learning, teaching and research activities. The library houses approximately 18,000 books in its collection, and has 1085 registered members. The library has extended the range and depth of its collection through subscribing to the following e-resources via PERI under the Bangladesh INASP PERI consortium program:

The use of library resources is indispensable for pursuing study and research. Ayesha Abed Library (AAL) of BRAC University aims to provide a variety of services designed to support the students, faculty members, researchers, staff members of BRAC and BRAC University; and outside users. All categories of members of the Library would like to examine, consult, borrow and browse through any book, journal and other printed and non-printed resources/materials. All may receive other services of the library. The rules have been enacted to ensure the best services of the library for its members.

The Library's objectives are:

- To support and facilitate the research, learning, teaching and administrative activities of the University, by organising,

maintaining and providing access to appropriate literature and information resources in such a way as to provide optimum benefit for Library users.

- To monitor and evaluate services to match changing university needs.
- To maintain and develop innovative programs and services through partnerships and collaboration.
- To develop and maintain all service standards at the highest possible levels, with the emphasis on quality, customer care and cost-effectiveness, within the resources available to the service.

In 2008 BRAC University Ayesha Abed Library continued to make progress towards the realization of the key strategies designed to improve support for the University's learning, teaching and research activities. The library has developed and improved its core services and products this year. Over sixty computers are located on the 2nd floor of Aarong House, which provide on-line access to the Internet. The library was able to extend the range and depth of the collection through the subscribing following e-resources via PERI under the Bangladesh INASP PERI consortium program:

- American Astronomical Society
- American Chemical Society
- American Institute of Physics
- American Physical Society
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- Annual Reviews
- Beech Tree Publishing
- Bentham Science Publishing
- Cambridge University Press (CUP)
- Cochrane Library (web)
- EBSCO Host including CMMC (CMMC new in 2009)
- Geological Society
- Institute of EEE
- Institute of Physics Journals
- International Forestry Review
- Mary Ann Liebert
- Mineralogical Society

- Nature
- NRC Research Press (Canada)
- Optical Society of America (OSA)
- Oxford Journals
- Palgrave-Macmillan Journals
- Policy Press
- Project MUSE
- Royal Society
- Springer Enhanced Package 1610 titles
- Symposium Journals
- University of California Journals (Caliber)
- University of Chicago Press
- Walter de Gruyter Online Journals
- Wiley-Blackwell (Former InterScience content)
- Wiley-Blackwell (Former Synergy content)
- World Bank e-library, WDI, GDF

The library also subscribes to a number of databases such as JSTOR, eGranary, AGORA, HINARI, EOLSS, and OARE. The library regularly provides training, orientation, and workshops for a wide variety of groups and individuals. The library staff attends trainings and workshops in order to improve their professional and technical skills.

In 2008, the Ayesha Abed Library successfully implemented a Digital Institutional Repository Project (dspace.bracu.ac.bd) funded by INASP (International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications), UK. The main objective of this project was to support and promote the research and intellectual output of the university. More recently, in January 2009, the Library received a \$24,000 grant from the Elsevier Foundation (US) to implement a complete library automation system using open source software (KOHA) to enrich our infrastructure, serving as both a local resource and model for other Bangladeshi university libraries. The Ayesha Abed Library was one of four winning proposals out of 165 proposals submitted to the Elsevier Foundation. The library has also received a grant from INASP to conduct training

Sunday to Thursday, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Saturdays and Fridays and holidays are closed.

BRAC University Alumni Association

Objective of this association is to promote the interests of BRAC University Alumni network, guide and mentor students and alumni and ensure that BRAC University stays dynamic and constantly updated in response to the changing needs of society.

Our mission is to connect alumni to BRAC University and, provide each other valuable benefits, services and resources and support to the University's mission of teaching, research and service.

The association provides professional and personal enrichment opportunities for alumni and friends through educational, informational and social events. Working closely with the University, the Association informs alumni of the University's events and news provides a forum for continued dialogue with the University.

The association is intended to provide services such as helping students finding jobs, career advice for freshers, sharing job experiences, building fund-raising support, providing suggestions to change the BRAC University curriculum which will meet the current demands of the market and strengthen BRAC University's outreach.

Any graduate of BRAC University, who has obtained an honorary or regular degree (undergraduate or postgraduate), certificate or diploma from BRAC University, or was formally enrolled at BRAC University as a full-time or part-time student for a period of not less than two semesters or equivalent; as well as all alumni of BRAC University, is considered to be members of the BRAC University Alumni Association. An executive committee consisting of six members carries out the operations of the association. Each executive committee stays in office for one year. To assist the executive committee in their duties, there are several sub-

committees, each in charge of different aspects of the organization.

Finance and Accounts Department

Finance and Accounts department receives tuition fee, other fees and donations from students and donors respectively and usually make all types of payments, and prepare and provide various reports to the management such as weekly fund position, monthly central budget variance report, quarterly department-wise budget variance report, annual financial statements, Ford Foundation yearly report,

provident fund financial statements, fund management, donors report etc. BRAC University is also running more than 40 donor projects and maintain all the activities like students' enrollment and registration, accounting, payroll, fixed assets management system, cheque management systems, provident fund, income tax, etc. through the touch of modern softwares. Finance and Accounts Department also provides information and all types of analysis, various reports, etc to the management for assist in the decision making.

ANNEX-A**List of Faculty Member****ARCHITECTURE****Full Time Faculty**

Sl	Name	Designation
1.	Prof. Fuad Hassan Mallick,	Chairperson
2.	Dr. Zainab F. Ali	Director, Student Affairs
3.	Ms. Sheikh Rubaiya Rahman	Sr. Lecturer
4.	Ms. Huraera Jabeen	Sr. Lecturer
5.	Mr. Khondaker Hasibul Kabir	Sr. Lecturer
6.	Ms. Yasmin Ara	Sr. Lecturer
7.	Mr. Abu Md. Rahat Mujib Niaz	Lecturer
8.	Mr. Muhammad Nafisur Rahman	Lecturer
9.	Mr. Md. Shajjad Hossain	Lecturer
10.	Ms. Samia Sharmin	Lecturer
11.	Mr. Sayem Khan	Lecturer
12.	Mr. Md. Aminur Rahman	Research Associate

Part Time Faculty

- Mr. Shams Mansoor Ghani
- Ms. Rehnur Parveen
- Mr. Mustafa Hasan Shamim
- Mr. B. K. S Inan
- Mr. Nurur Rahman Khan
- Mr. Manash K. Mitra
- Mr. Md. Aminur Rahman
- Ms. Marina Tabassum
- Mr. Obaidul Fattah Tanvir
- Mr. Mustasim M. Khan
- Ms. Nesfun Nahar
- Mr. Kazi Golam Nasir
- Dr. Enamul Haque
- Mr. Md Shafiqul Alam
- Dr. Shahaduzzaman
- Professor Alamgir Habib
- Mr. Sk. Afzal Hossain
- Mr. Naquib Hossain
- Dr. Ishrat Islam
- Mr. Md Saidur Rahman
- Mr. Md Aminur Rahman
- Ms Dilruba Haider
- Mr. Md Rezaur Rahman
- Dr. Ainun Nishat
- Dr. S. I. Khan
- Mr. Ian Rector

Teaching Assistant

- Ms. Faria Tasnin Islam

COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**Full Time Faculty**

Sl	Name	Designation
1.	Dr. Sayeed Salam	Chairperson
2.	Dr. Mumit Khan	Professor
3.	Dr. AKM Abdul Malek Azad	Asso. Professor
4.	Ms. Sadia Kazi	Sr. Lecturer
5.	Mr. Matin Saad Abdullah	Sr. Lecturer
6.	Ms. Amina Hasan Abedin	Sr. Lecturer
7.	Ms. Bushra Tawfiq Chowdhury	Sr. Lecturer
8.	Mr. Tarem Ahmed	Sr. Lecturer
9.	Mr Abdussamad Ahmed Muntahi	Lecturer
10.	Ms. Rubaiya Rahman	Lecturer
11.	Ms. Sonia Ahsan	Lecturer
12.	Mr. Sarwar Alam	Lecturer
13.	Mr. Imran Ahmed	Lecturer
14.	Mr. Syed S. Islam	Lecturer
15.	Ms. Afroza Sultana	Lecturer
16.	Mr. Farazul H. Bhuiyan	Lecturer
17.	Mr. Ahmedul Kabir	Lecturer
18.	Mr. Md. Omar Faruque	Lecturer

Part Time faculty

- Prof. Dr. Md. Shafiqul Islam
- Dr. A. B. M. Harunur Rashid
- Mr. Nilangshu Debnath
- Mr. ASM Zillur Rahman
- Dr. Pran Kanai Saha
- Mr. Apurba Saha

Lab Technical Officer

- Mr. Md. Safiul Alam
- Mr Sahidul Islam
- Mr. Md. Shariful Alam
- Mr. Altaf Mahmud
- Mr. Munshi Asadullah
- Mr. Hasan-Al-Banna
- Mr. Sumit Roy Rony
- Mr. Md. Rajib Hasan
- Mr. Md. Ahamed Intiaz
- Mr. Ahmed Al Amin
- Mr. Md. Asaduzzaman All Faruq
- Mr. Md. Abdur Rouf Sarker

ENGLISH & HUMANITIES**Full Time Faculty**

Sl	Name	Designation
1.	Professor Firdous Azim	Chairperson
2.	Ms. Sohana Manzoor	Sr. Lecturer
3.	Ms. Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury	Lecturer
4.	Ms. Asifa Sultana	Lecturer
5.	Ms Roohi Huda	Lecturer
6.	Mr. Ahammad Ullah	Lecturer
7.	Mr. Biplab Kumar Halder	Lecturer

Part Time Faculty

Sl	Name	Designation
1.	Prof. Syed Manzoorul Islam	
2.	Ms. Shenin Ziauddin	
3.	Ms. Nausheen Eusuf	
4.	Professor Kaiser Md. Hamidul Haq	
5.	Dr. Feroza Yasmin	
6.	Professor Anisuzzaman	
7.	Professor Shawkat Hossain	
8.	Mr. Mohammad Golam Saklayen Saqui	
9.	Prof. Dr. Ahmed A Jamal	

Teaching Assistant

1. Mr. Aroop Saha
2. Ms. Sonia Afrin

ECONOMICS & SOCIAL SCIENCES**Full Time Faculty**

2.	Professor Dr. Anwarul Hoque	Chair
3.	Dr. Manjur Karim	Associate Professor
4.	Dr. Wasiqueur Rahman Khan	Assistant Professor
5.	Dr. Shahidur Rahman	Assistant Professor
6.	Mr. Mohammad Jahangir Alam	Sr. Lecturer
7.	Mr. Md. Abdul Wohab	Senior Lecturer
8.	Ms. Mahbuba Naznin Sani	Lecturer
9.	Mr. Md. Kamrul Hasan	Lecturer
10.	Ms. Ishrat Jahan	Lecturer
11.	Ms. Afifa Shahrin	Lecturer
12.	Ms. Wahida Ferdousi	Lecturer
13.	Mr. Navil Chowdhury	Lecturer
14.	Mr. Naim Uddin H. A. Chowdhury	Lecturer
15.	Ms. Fahmida Saadia Rahman	Lecturer
16.	Mr. Iftekharul Haque	Lecturer

Teaching Assistant

1. Mr. Tuhin Roy

Part Time Faculty

1. Dr. Nurul Huda Abul Monsur
2. Ms. Meheri Tamanna
3. Mr. Chowdhury Rashad Shabab

MATHEMATICS & NATURAL SCIENCES**Full Time Faculty**

1.	Professor Dr. A. A. Z. Ahmad	Chairperson
2.	Professor Naiyyum Choudhury	Professor
3.	Professor Gauranga Deb Roy	Professor
4.	Ms. Sharmina Hussain	Sr. Lecturer
5.	Mr. Mohammad Maruf Ahmed	Lecturer
6.	Ms. Moushumi Zahur	Lecturer
7.	Ms. Gulshan Khatun	Lecturer
8.	Ms. Fardousi Ara Begum	Lecturer
9.	Mr. Md. Anisur Rahman Molla	Lecturer

Sl	Name	Designation
10.	Mr. Mahabobe Shobahani	Lecturer
11.	Ms. Hasibun Naher	Lecturer
12.	Ms. Fahmida Homayra	Lecturer
13.	Ms. Sanjida Aktar	Lecturer
14.	Mr. Al Amin Kabir	Lecturer
15.	Ms. Lopamudra Chakravarty	Lecturer

Part Time Faculty

1. Professor. Sajeda Banu
2. Professor Amal Krishna Halder
3. Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed
4. Professor Dr. Amin Hasan Kazi
5. Dr. Farid Uddin Ahmed
6. Dr. Arshad Momen
7. Professor Forhad Hossain
8. Dr. Ishtiaque M. Sayed
9. Prof. Md. Anwar Hossain
10. Prof. Firdausi Qadri

Teaching Assistant

1. Mr. Muhammad Lutfur Rahman
2. Mr. Mustak Ibne Ayub
3. Mr. Salim Ahmed
4. Ms. Adiba Raihan

Biotechnology Program**Full Time Faculty**

1. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury Coordinator
2. Dr. Aparna Islam Assistant Professor

Part Time

1. Professor Firdausi Qadri
2. Professor Md. Anwar Hossain

BRAC BUSINESS SCHOOL**Full Time Faculty**

1.	Professor Iftekhar Ghani Chowdhury	Dean
2.	Mr. Mahmudul Haq	Assistant Professor
3.	Mr. Zahidul Alam Khandaker	Asst. Professor
4.	Ms. Afsana Akhter	Senior Lecturer
5.	Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh	Senior Lecturer
6.	Mr. Md. Zakir Hossain Sharkar	Sr. Lecturer
7.	Mr. Anup Chowdhury	Senior Lecturer
8.	Mr. Ali Salman	Lecturer
9.	Mr. Suman Paul Chowdhury	Lecturer
10.	Ms. Syeda Rownak Afza	Lecturer
11.	Mr. Shamim Ehsanul Haque	Lecturer
12.	Mr. Probal Dutta	Lecturer
13.	Ms. Syeda Shaharbanu Ahmed	Lecturer
14.	Mr. Mohammad Khaleq Newaz	Lecturer
15.	Mr. Edward Probir Mondol	Lecturer
16.	Ms. Shireen Abedin	Lecturer

Sl	Name	Designation
17.	Ms. Asefa Huda	Lecturer
18.	Ms. Somaiya Yunus	Lecturer
19.	Ms Sharmin S. Rahman	Lecturer
20.	Ms. Farhana Nur Malik	Lecturer
21.	Ms. Kohinur Akter	Lecturer
22.	Mr. Dewan Mostafizur Rahman	Lecturer

Part Time Faculty

1.	Prof. Mojib Ahmed	Director, MBA Program
2.	Professor Ali Ahsan	
3.	Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed	
4.	Dr. Syed Shahadat Hossain	
5.	Mr. Mohammad Abdul Kadir	
6.	Ms. Parveen Sultana Huda	
7.	Ms. Nadia Huq	
8.	Mr. Abdul Azim Sulman	
9.	Ms. Nadia Binte Amin	
10.	Mr K. Shamsuddin Mahmood	
11.	Mr. Md. Khalek Newaz	
12.	Ms. Farhana Nur Malik	
13.	Mr. Abu Monjoor Sayeef	
14.	Dr. Md. Forhad Hossain	
15.	Mr. Tabarak Hossain Bhuiyan	
16.	Dr. Jahangir Alam	
17.	Mr. Dominic S. V. Bennett	
18.	Dr. M. Amir Hossain	
19.	Chowdhury Saima Ferdous	
20.	M. Zulfiquar Hussain	
21.	Mr. Ali Ahammed Mozumder	
22.	Professor Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed	
23.	Ms. Rebecca Moudud	
24.	Prof. Dr. Mubina Khondoker	
25.	Mr. Akhtaruzzaman	
26.	Mr. Abu Hena Reza Hasan	

SCHOOL OF LAW

Full Time Faculty

1.	Mr. Shamsuddin Mahmood	Head, Under Graduate Program
2.	Dr. Saira R Khan	Assistant Professor
3.	Dr. Tureen Afroz	Assistant Professor
4.	Mr. Md. Mostafa Haider	Lecturer

Part Time Faculty

1.	Dr. Shahdeen Malik
2.	Mr. M. Iktedar Ahmed
3.	Dr. Ridwanul Hoque
4.	Mr. Muhammad Tawhidul Islam
5.	Barrister Abdul Halim
6.	Mr. Mahmudul Karim
7.	Mr. Formanul Islam
8.	Mr. Naser Alam
9.	Ms. Dalia Parveen

Teaching Assistant

Sl	Name	Designation
1.	Ms. Sabera Ekram	

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Full Time Faculty

1.	Dr. A. M. R. Chowdhury	Dean
2.	Dr. Alejandro Cravioto	Associate Dean
3.	Dr. Anwar Islam	Director
4.	Dr. Shahaduz Zaman	Associate Professor
5.	Dr. Sabina F Rashid	Associate Professor
6.	Mr. Shafiun Nahin Shimul	Lecturer
7.	Ms. Nasima Selim	Lecturer
8.	Mahrukh Mohiuddin	Lecturer
9.	Dr. Farah Mahjabeen	Coordinator, Continuing Education Program

Adjunct Faculty

1.	Mr. Steve Luby
2.	Dr. Tahmeed Ahmed
3.	Dr. Shams El- Arefeen
4.	Mr. Tracey Koehlmoos
5.	Mr. Mizanur Rahman
6.	Mr. Aftab Uddin

CENTRE FOR LANGUAGES

1.	Ms. Syeda Sarwat Abed	Director
2.	Ms. Shaheen Ara	Lecturer
3.	Ms. Jesmine Zaker	Lecturer
4.	Ms. Mahmuda Yasmin Shaila	Lecturer
5.	Ms. Effat Hyder	Lecturer
6.	Ms. Samina Nasrin Chowdhury	Lecturer
7.	Mr. Sheikh Fazle Shams	Academic Coordinator
8.	Ms. Liza Reshmin	Lecturer
9.	Mr. Ivan Shafaat Bari	Academic Coordinator
10.	Mr. AQM Khairul Basher	Lecturer
11.	Mr. Sanjoy Banerjee	Lecturer
12.	Ms. Farrah Jabeen	Lecturer
13.	Ms. Moutushi Khandaker	Lecturer
14.	Ms. Tahreen Ahmed	Lecturer
15.	Ms. Saheli Matin	Lecturer
16.	Mr. Mohammad Aminul Islam	Teacher
17.	Ms. Tahmina Anwar	Teacher
18.	Ms. Sadia Nasrin	Teacher
19.	Mr. Khurram Malik	Faculty
20.	Mr. Md. Golam Jamil	Lecturer
21.	Ms. Sadra N. Siddiky	Lecturer
22.	Ms. Sunida Witayakarn	Lecturer
23.	Mr. S M Anwaruddin	Lecturer
24.	Ms. Tamanna Maqsood	Teacher
25.	Ms. Bidisha Zaman	Teacher
26.	Mr. Kazi Sarmad Karim	Teacher
27.	Ms. Israt Ara Islam	Teacher
28.	Ms. Suma Saha	Teacher

Sl	Name	Designation
29.	Ms. Nipa Nasrin	<i>Teacher</i>
30.	Ms. Tanzina Chowdhury	<i>Teacher</i>
31.	Mr. Abdullah Arif Muhammad	<i>Teacher</i>
32.	Ms. Sharlene Nisha Alam	<i>Faculty</i>
33.	Ms. Lisa Ponzetti	<i>English Language Fellow</i>

Teaching Assistant

1. Ms. Samia Zerin
2. Ms. Rubaiyat Jabeen
3. Ms. Reeham Chowdhury
4. Mr. Pankoj Paul

BRAC DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Full Time Faculty

1. Professor Syed M Hashemi *Director*
2. Mr. Khondoker Shakhawat Ali
Communications Coordinator

Part Time Faculty

1. Dr. Ferdous Jahan
2. Dr. Mahbub Alam
3. Dr. Sohela Nazneen
4. Dr. Mirza M. Hasan
5. Mr. Manash Mitra
6. Dr. A. K. Enamul Haque
7. Dr. Sheikh Tawhidul Islam
8. Prof. Farzana Islam

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE STUDIES

1. Mr. Manzoor Hasan *Director*
2. Dr. Shahna z Karim *Assistant Director*
3. Dr. Rizwan khair *Academic Coordinator*
4. Professor Dr. M. Emdadul Haq *Professor*
5. Mr. Haydory Akbar Ahmed
Sr. Research Associate
6. Mr. Md. Morshed Alom
Lecturer/Research Associate
7. Mr. Asif Md. Shahan *Research Associate*
8. Mr. Md. Ashrafal Haque *Research Assistant*
9. Mr. Mohammad Sirajul Islam
Research Assistant
10. Mr. Quazi Tarique-Ul-Alam *Program Officer*
11. Mr. Md. Mostafijar Rahman *Asst. DCO*
12. Ms. Nuzhat Jabin *Project Associate*
13. Mr. Mohammad Kamrul Hasan Bhuiyan
Program Assistant (Finance)
14. Ms. Hilda Sobita Rozario *Front Desk Officer*
15. Mr. Md. Humayun Kabir
IT Officer/System Administrator

Project & Research

National Integrity Strategy

1. Mr. Ekram Hossain *Project Officer*

UNCAC Compliance Analysis Project (Phase II)

Sl	Name	Designation
1.	Mr. Saiful Bhuiyan	<i>Project Associate</i>

State of Governance 2008

1. Ms. Tamina M. Chowdhury *Research Associate*
2. Mr. Harun-Or-Rashid *Research Assistant*
3. Mr. Md. Atique Rahman *Research Assistant*
4. Ms. Syeda Salina Aziz *Research Associate*
5. Ms. Nasrin Akter *Front Desk Officer*
6. Ms. Rita Rehman *Logistics Supervisor*

Bangladesh Health Watch Report 2008, IGS

Sl	Name	Designation
1.	Ms. Nermeen Shams	<i>Research Associate</i>

Reform Prioritization Project (UNDP)

1. Mr. Sultan Md. Zakaria *Project Assistant*

DAI Parliamentary Component (Subcontract)

1. Mr. Abu Ala Mahmudul Hasan
Project Associate

PROGATI Media Project

1. Mr. S.M. Jahanur Ebne Awal
Manager Admin & Finance
2. Mr. A.N.M Golam Kabria
Senior Manager Training
3. Mr. Manzur Elahi
Sr. Manager Research & Information Management

CSE

Pan Localization

1. Mr. Kamrul Hayder *Linguistic Consultant*
2. Mr. Matin Saad Abdullah
Research Programmer
3. Mr. Abdur Rahman
Lab Tutor
4. Mr. Firoj Alam *Research Programmer*
5. Mr. S..M. Murtoza Habib
Research Programmer
6. Mr. Md. Abul Hasnat *Research Programmer*
7. Dr. Mumit Khan
Team Leader
8. Mr. Kamrul Hayder
Project Staff

CRBLP

1. Ms. Urmi Lohani *Research Officer*
 2. Mr. Mahmud Hossain *Technical Staff Member*
 3. Ms. Farhana Faruqe *Research Programmer*
- | Sl | Name | Designation |
|-----------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4. | Mr. Minhajur Rahman | <i>Translation Moderator</i> |
| 5. | Ms. Tanzana Rahman | <i>Translation Moderator</i> |
| 6. | Ms. Dil Afroza Sultana | <i>Technical Staff Member</i> |

CISCO

1. Ms. Sadia Kazi *Main Legal Contact*

BDI:**DSP Research Project (DDBCPP)**

Sl	Name	Designation
1.	Mr. Saiful Islam	Field Coordinator
2.	Ms. Lopita Huq	Research Fellow
3.	Ms. Kobita Chowdhury	Research Associate
4.	Ms. Simeen Mahmud	Consultant

Pathways of Women's Empowerment

1.	Ms. Simeen Mahmud	Consultant
2.	Ms. Maheen Sultan	Course Coordinator
3.	Ms. Samia Afroz Rahim	Research Associate
4.	Ms. Sahida Islam Khondoker	Research Asst.
5.	Ms. Samia Huq	Research Fellow
6.	Ms. Aanmona Priyadarshini	Research Assistant
7.	Ms. Shafina Naznin	Research Assistant
8.	Ms. Hoimonty Roy	Research Assistant
9.	Mr. Md. Mustak Ahammad	Research Assistant
10.	Mr. Md. Shameen Reza Khan	Research Asst
11.	Dr. Sohela Nazneen	Research Fellow
12.	Ms. Shaila Yasmin	Research Assistant

Local Governance

1.	Mr. Muhammad Nabil Zuberi	Research Asst
2.	Mr. Miron Kumar Saha	Research Assistant
3.	Mr. Md. Zillur Rahman	Research Assistant
4.	Mr. Tarikul Alam Sharif	Research Assistant
5.	Mr. Md. Moniruzzaman	Research Assistant
6.	Mr. Md. Monowarul Islam	Research Assistant
7.	Mr. Mostafizur Rahman	Research Assistant
8.	Mr. Md. Bayazid Hasan	Research Assistant
9.	Ms. Syeda Jaferi Hussain	Communication Asso

New Initiatives

1.	Ms. Shahana Siddiqui	Research Associate
----	----------------------	--------------------

Building Constituencies

1.	Mr. Shah Md. Iqbal Chowdhury	Research Asst
----	------------------------------	---------------

Ethnographic Studies on BRAC's Ultra-Poor Program

1.	Prof. Farzana Islam	Research Advisors
2.	Shamima Nasrin	Research Assistant
3.	Ashna Chowdhury	Research Assistant
4.	Md Balayat Hossain	Research Assistant
5.	Mohammad Jakiul Huda	Research Assistant

SPH:**COMODIS TB Project**

1.	Dr. Shahaduz Zaman	Principal Investigator
2.	Mr. Md. Tareq Jubayer	Research Assistant
3.	Mr. Rakibul Islam Onu	Research Assistant
4.	Mr. Julkarnayeen	Research Assistant

RPC

1.	Dr. Sabina F Rashid	Coordinator
2.	Mr. Noor Mohammad	Project Support Staff
3.	Mr. Md. Moshioul Azam	Project Support Staff

Sl Name Designation

4.	Ms. Shahanoor Akter Chowdhury	Sr. Research Associate
----	-------------------------------	------------------------

Releasing Rights Project

1.	Ms. Eram y Cooper	Research Project Support Staff
2.	Ms. Suborna Camellia	Sr. Research Assistant
3.	Mr. Owasim Akram	Research Associate

Health Watch

1.	Ms. Mahrukh Mohiuddin	Research Associate
2.	Dr. Nahitun Naher	Research Associate

GFATM

1.	Ms. Mehreen Karim	Research Support Staff
2.	Mr. Md. Salim Khan	Sr. Program Associate

EU Asia Link Project

1.	Mr. Tapan Biswas	Program Officer, IT
2.	Mr. Nakib Rajib Ahmed	Project Coordinator

UNAIDS

1.	Ms. Nabilah Shabnam Khan	Research Support Staff
2.	Mr. Md. Tanvir Hasan	Sr. Research Assistant

Disaster Management

1.	Dr. Fuad Hassan Mallick	Director
----	-------------------------	----------

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (IED)**Sl Name Designation**

1.	Ms. Erum Mariam	Director
2.	Dr. Manzoor Ahmed	Senior Adviser
3.	Ms. Kaniz Fatema	Education Adviser
4.	Dr. Sudhir Chandra Sarker	Programme Coordinator
5.	Ms. Mary Monica Gomes	Senior Faculty
6.	Ms. Mahmuda Akhter	Head of ECDRC
7.	Dr. Nishat Fatima Rahman	Senior Education Specialist
8.	Ms. Syeda Sazia Zaman	Education Specialist
9.	Ms. Ferdousi Khanam	Education Specialist
10.	Mr. Golam Kibria	Programme Specialist
11.	Mr. Md. Jaman Uddin Khan	Communication Support Specialist
12.	Ms. Sakila Yesmin	Education Specialist
13.	Mr. Mohammad Zia-Us-Sabur	Senior Research Associate
14.	Mr. Vibekananda Howlader	Sr. M.D. Specialist
15.	Mr. Md. Kabir Tafiqul Islam	Senior Manager
16.	Mr. Md. Altaf Hossain	Research Fellow-I
17.	Mr. Md. Abul Kalam	Research Associate-II
18.	Ms. Trishna Sagar	Research Associate
19.	Ms. Basabi Maksud	Sector Specialist
20.	Mr. Md. Zahangir Alam Mazumder	Administrative Officer
21.	Ms. Foujia Nahid	Librarian

ANNEX-B**Administration and Management**

Sl	Name	Designation
1	Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury	<i>Vice Chancellor</i>
2	Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed	<i>Pro-Vice Chancellor</i>
3	Mr. Sukhendra Kumar Sarkar	<i>Treasurer</i>
4	Mr. Mahmood Hasan	<i>Registrar</i>
5	Mr. Md. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury	<i>Campus Superintendent</i>
6	Mr. Mohammad Jahangir Alam	<i>Asst. Director</i>
7	Ms. Iris Pervin	<i>Assistant Registrar</i>
8	Mr. Md. Arifuzzaman	<i>Senior Registration and Program Officer</i>
9	Ms. Nazmus Sabeka	<i>Assistant Registrar, Examination & Transcript</i>
10	Ms. Shadia Alam	<i>Examination & Transcript Officer</i>
11	Mr. Mohammad Shamim Azad	<i>Admission & Registration Officer</i>
12	Mr. Abdul Moghni Chowdhury	<i>Procurement Manager</i>
13	Ms. Rofequnnesa Amin	<i>Secretary to VC</i>
14	Mr. Obaidullah Al Zakir	<i>Public Relations Officer</i>
15	Ms. Shamsun Nahar	<i>Assistant Director, RMO</i>
16	Mr. Saiduzzaman Shikder	<i>Student Counselor</i>
17	Ms. Janiya Sultana Jesmin	<i>Student Counselor</i>
18	Ms. Rosy Sharif	<i>Senior H R Officer</i>
19	Ms. Momena Begum	<i>H R Officer</i>
20	Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah	<i>In-charge, Career Services Office</i>
21	Ms. Emu Sharmin	<i>Junior Admin Officer</i>
22	Mr. Abdullah-Al-Mahmud	<i>Junior Career Services Officer</i>
23	Mr. Monojit Kumar Ojha	<i>Head of Account</i>
24	Ms. Tanjima Tamanna	<i>Senior Accounts Officer</i>
25	Mr. Amdadul Islam	<i>Accounts Officer</i>
26	Mr. Sumon Chandra Das	<i>Accounts Officer</i>
27	Mr. Md. Golam Kibria	<i>Accounts Officer</i>
28	Ms. Nusrat Zahan	<i>Junior Accounts Officer</i>
29	Mr. Subrota Samadder	<i>Daily Basis, Accounts</i>
30	Dr. Mahbuba Ferdous	<i>Medical Officer</i>
31	Ms. Mahbuba Naznin Sani	<i>Counselor</i>
32	Ms. Sabiha Jahan	<i>Asst. Counselor</i>
33	Mr. Nurul Islam	<i>Sr. Admin Officer</i>
34	Mr. Md. Shahidul Islam	<i>Admin Officer</i>
35	Mr. Sk. Tareq Hossain	<i>Maintenance/Admin Officer</i>
36	Mr. Md. Akterujjaman	<i>Admin Officer</i>
37	Mr. Mohammad Hossain	<i>Senior System Administrator</i>
38	Ms. Fahima Khanam	<i>Senior System Administrator</i>
39	Mr. Aminul Islam	<i>System Administrator</i>
40	Mr. Mohammad Rezaul Islam	<i>System Administrator</i>
41	Mr. Md. Sadat Mursalin Chowdhury	<i>Asst. System Administrator</i>
42	Mr. Md. Al-Mahmud	<i>Asst. System Administrator</i>
43	Mr. Aurongojeb	<i>Network Support Engineer</i>
44	Mr. Muhammad Shahjahan	<i>Campus Supervisor</i>

Sl	Name	Designation
45	Ms. Israt Sultana	<i>Telephone Operator</i>
46	Mr. Md. Lutfor Rahman	<i>DCO (Architecture)</i>
47	Mr. Mostak Ahmed	<i>DCO (MGB)</i>
48	Mr. Jabed Rasel	<i>DCO (MGB)</i>
49	Ms. Effat Jahan Mila	<i>DCO (CSE)</i>
50	Mr. Nurul Ahad Md. Sifur Rahaman	<i>DCO (ENH)</i>
51	Ms. Nurunnesa Sabera	<i>DCO (CfL)</i>
52	Ms. Afruza Begum	<i>ADCO (CfL)</i>
53	Mr. Rayhanul Haque	<i>DCO (SoL)</i>
54	Mr. Satyajit Modak	<i>DCO (MBA)</i>
55	Mr. Theophil Nokrek	<i>DCO (ESS)</i>
56	Mr. Shahin Shaikh	<i>DCO (MNS)</i>
57	Ms. Sadeka Banu	<i>DCO (BDI)</i>
58	Mr. Mrityunjoy Das	<i>Academic & Admin Officer (SPH)</i>
59	Mr. Atiqur Rahman	<i>SAO</i>
60	Mr. Biplab Kumar Halder	<i>Lecturer cum House Tutor</i>
61	Mr. Ahammad Ullah	<i>Lecturer cum House Tutor</i>
62	Dr. Md. Kamruzzaman Bhuiyan	<i>Resident Medical Officer</i>
63	Ms. Anjuman Ara	<i>Counselor</i>
64	Mr. Md. Saiful Alam	<i>Counselor</i>
65	Mr. Faruk Hossain	<i>Admin Officer (Coordination-RS)</i>
66	Ms. Jannatun Nisa	<i>House Tutor cum TA</i>
67	Mr. Shahidul Islam	<i>TA</i>
68	Ms. Umme Salma Akhtar	<i>House Tutor</i>
69	Ms. Shahana Islam	<i>House Tutor</i>
70	Ms. Robaet Nusrat Jahan	<i>House Tutor</i>
71	Mr. Rehan Ahmed	<i>Dorm Supervisor</i>
72	Ms. Lovely Mendes	<i>Resident Nurse (Savar)</i>
73	Mr. Md. Saddam Hossain	<i>Lab Technical Officer</i>
74	Mr. Halal Rabbani	<i>Assistant Librarian</i>

Ayesha Abed Library

75	Ms. Hasina Afroz	<i>Deputy Librarian</i>
76	Ms. Nasima Begum (Leave)	<i>Senior Asst. Librarian</i>
77	Mr. Kh. Ali Murtoza	<i>Asst. Librarian</i>
78	Mr. Ahmad Parvez	<i>Asst. Librarian</i>
79	Ms. Shahin Akther	<i>Junior Asst. Librarian</i>

ANNEX-C

S F AHMED & CO.
 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Since 1958

■ House 25, Road 13A
 Block D, Banani
 Dhaka 1213
 Bangladesh

■ Telephone: (880-2)9894026, 9894346
 8815102, 8833327
 Fax: (880-2)8825135, 8814713
 E-mail: sfali@connectbd.com
 sfacoali@btel.net.bd
 sfaco@dhaka.net

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Governing Board of BRAC University

We have audited the accompanying Balance Sheet of BRAC University as of 30 June 2008 and the related Income and Expenditure Account and Cash Flow Statement together with notes 1 to 29 for the period from 01 January 2008 to 30 June 2008. The preparation of these Financial Statements is the responsibility of the management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these Financial Statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Bangladesh Standards on Auditing (BSA). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the overall Financial Statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the Financial Statements, prepared in accordance with Bangladesh Accounting Standards (BAS), give a true and fair view of the state of the University's affairs as on 30 June 2008 and of the result of its operations and its Cash Flow, for the period from 01 January 2008 to 30 June 2008 and comply with Private University Act 1992 and other relevant laws and regulations.

We also report that:

- (a) we have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit and made due verification thereof ;
- (b) in our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the University so far as it appeared from our examination of those books;
- (c) the university's Balance Sheet, the Income and Expenditure Account and the Statement of Cash Flow, are in agreement with the books of account; and
- (d) the expenditure incurred was for the University's purposes.



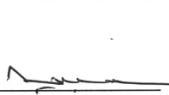

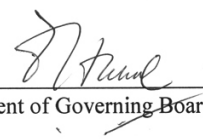
Dated, Dhaka
 09 April 2009

S. F. Ahmed & Co.
 Chartered Accountants

BRAC University
Balance Sheet
as at 30 June 2008

Notes	As at 30 Jun' 08 Taka	As at 31 Dec' 07 Taka
Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	3 39,459,047	28,451,107
Current assets		
Receivables	4 10,735,551	5,082,472
Advance, deposits and prepayments	5 11,821,879	9,699,040
Fixed deposit receipts	6 191,680,701	100,644,514
Cash in hand and at bank	7 5,875,782	4,650,664
Total current assets	220,113,913	120,076,690
Total assets	259,572,960	148,527,797
Fund and liabilities		
Fund		
BRAC Ford Scholarship fund	8 53,930,805	52,815,811
Reserve fund	9 50,000,000	50,000,000
Deferred Income	10 6,144,906	4,379,880
Grants received in advance	11 24,204,261	31,388,862
Gratuity fund	9,295,621	3,399,563
Shohayota Fund	12 507,018	194,403
Development Fund	13 3,633,103	-
Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure	14 (7,841,095)	(17,461,131)
Total fund	139,874,619	124,717,388
Liabilities		
Fees received in advance	15 49,840,421	4,526,914
Outstanding liabilities	16 22,422,350	17,510,612
	72,262,771	22,037,526
Provision for taxation	3,470,536	1,772,883
Bank overdraft	43,965,034	-
Total liabilities	119,698,341	23,810,409
Total fund and liabilities	259,572,960	148,527,797

The annexed notes form an integral part of these statements

 Treasurer	 Member of Governing Board	 President of Governing Board
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

As per our annexed report of the even date.



Dated, Dhaka
09 April 2009


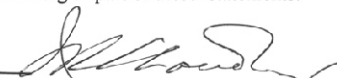


S. F. Ahmed

S. F. Ahmed & Co.
Chartered Accountants

BRAC University
Statement of Income and Expenditure
For 6 month period ended 30 June 2008

	Notes	6 month period ended 30 Jun' 08 Taka	12 month period ended 31 Dec' 07 Taka
Income			
Revenue	17	164,938,052	272,470,081
Interest income	18	3,443,863	6,176,089
Income from BRAC Ford Scholarship fund		1,616,091	3,968,250
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment		147,000	189,277
Donor grants	19	19,591,196	29,989,984
Total Income		189,736,202	312,793,681
Expenses			
Salaries and benefits of faculty		63,263,256	97,895,372
Salaries and benefits of staff		18,169,316	27,681,885
Traveling and transportation		6,531,094	10,890,471
Computer operating expenses		1,540,054	3,015,659
Students admission expenses	20	687,918	1,014,506
Medical expenses		38,494	99,521
Repair and maintenance	21	8,231,060	6,534,885
General expenses	22	7,197,282	9,922,044
Rent and utilities	23	28,050,831	44,093,616
Food and accommodation for residential students		6,244,614	19,053,374
Scholarship to students	24	15,685,853	35,086,762
Fees for internet and intranet	25	2,310,177	4,211,179
Honorarium		285,798	198,695
Seminar and conference workshop		1,263,708	909,966
Publicity and advertisement		1,496,238	3,902,837
Journals and periodicals		551,990	740,488
Consultancy fees		2,713,168	1,405,558
Audit fees		136,300	104,275
Training		370,592	612,663
Co-curricular activities of students		1,850,683	2,912,845
Interest on bank overdraft		749,963	1,315,766
Salaries and benefits of research associates		3,022,718	3,245,340
Convocation		-	7,249,715
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment	3	8,027,406	18,877,040
Total expenses		178,418,513	300,974,462
Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure		11,317,689	11,819,219
Provision for taxation		1,697,653	1,772,883
Net Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure		9,620,036	10,046,336
(transferred to balance sheet)			

The annexed notes form an integral part of these statements.

 <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"/> Treasurer	 <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"/> Member of Governing Board	 <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"/> President of Governing Board
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

As per our annexed-report of the even date.



Dated, Dhaka
09 April 2009

S. F. Ahmed & Co.

S. F. Ahmed & Co.
Chartered Accountants

