

2010/april

Joining of new VC



Professor Dr. Ainun Nishat joined BRAC University as its Vice Chancellor on 15 April 2010. Prior to that he was working as the Senior Advisor, Climate Change, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia. He was Country Representative of IUCN in Bangladesh from 1998-2009. Dr. Nishat has been working as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator, championing the wise use of natural resources and sustainable development in Bangladesh for decades. His arena of work and interests include water resource development and management, environment management, biodiversity conservation, coastal zone and wetland conservation and management, disaster management, adaptation to climate change and climate variability and related policy advocacy.

Before joining IUCN, Dr. Nishat was a Professor of Water Resources Engineering of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) where he was a faculty member for over 26 years (1972-1998). He has guided over 30 theses at doctoral and masters level. He has to his credit a huge volume of books, proceedings, research papers and technical reports.

Dr. Nishat has been a member of the Bangladesh National Water Council, Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission, Bangladesh National Agricultural Commission and the National Council on Science and Technology. As an expert on international management of trans-boundary water resources, Dr. Nishat had played an important role in the Ganges Water Treaty negotiations, water sector policy formulation, and agriculture sector strategy formulation. He is member of the BRAC Executive Board. As a member of the Compliance Committee of Kyoto Protocol of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Dr. Nishat is actively involved in climate change negotiations. He is a Fellow, Institution of Engineers Bangladesh.

Architecture Update

Critique Week

Generally, the last week of the semester is scheduled for the final Critiques of the design studios. Final Critiques were held this semester from 8 April to 15 April, 2010. Ar. Mustofa Khalid Polash, Ar. B.K.S. Inan, Ar. Qazi Azizul Mowla, Ar. Marina Tabassum, Ar. Salauddin, Ar. Ripon, Ar. Foyezullah, Ar. Suja were present as guest critics in different critique sessions.



Final Year Thesis Project Critique

The students of the final design studio presented their graduation projects on 13 and 15 April 2010. The projects included Commercial



Complex at Dilkusha, Housing For Tomorrow, Liberation War Museum, Marine Conservation Museum, Bishud Bangla Complex, Intervention and Restoration of Masterplan of Film Industry & Detail (FDC), National institute of Photography and Visual Communication, Bangladesh Cancer Hospital and welfare Home, KSS Knit Composite Industry, Indian Embassy at Dhaka, BRAC, Subway station at Farmgate, BRAC University, Probin Nibash, Faculty of Fine arts Jahangirnagar University, Tourist Resort, Animation Industry and Children centre, Mohammedan Sporting Club and Complex, Jayson Pharmaceutical Factory. The guest critics included Prof. Dr. M. A. Mukta dir, Ar. Bashirul Haq, Ar. Nahas A. Khalil, Ar. Ehsan khan, Prof. Zainab F. Ali, faculty members and students of all design studios were present at the critique. A large number of students from architecture departments of different universities attended these sessions.

Architecture department joined a dialogue to review of urban design curricula

PPRC and Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) jointly organized a dialogue to review urban design curricula of the universities in the context of a rapidly urbanizing Bangladesh. The event took place on Saturday, 3rd April 2010. BRAC University participated in the event along with BUET, Jahangir nagar University, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology and Khulna University. Prof. Fuad H. Mallick, Sajid Bin Doja and Rubaiya Sultana were present there. Rubaiya Sultana presented the curricula of

the department of Architecture, BRAC University. Educationist, students, employers also participated. Dr. Sarwar Jahan president BIP introduced the issue. Dr.Hossain Zillur Rahman,former Adviser, Caretaker Govt. played the role of moderator of that session.

BDI Update

Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme, BDI

1. Digital Story-Telling Workshop in Rangamati from 18-22 April, 2010

The Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme at BDI organized a five-day workshop on Digital Story-Telling at Ashika Training Centre in Rangamati from 18-22 April, 2010. The workshop trained 12 women, who came from Rangamati, Kagrachari and Bandarban areas, to make Digital Stories about their lives.

Digital Stories are a 2-3 minute multimedia presentations that participants make to reflect, record and narrate their lives in their own words, voices and perspectives. The Programme undertook this initiative to promote alternative research methodologies and to facilitate the use of technology towards documenting ordinary women's lives.

The Workshop held a Certificate Distribution and Closing Ceremony on Thursday, 22 April, 2010, where guests were invited and the Digital Stories made by the participants were screened.

2. Review of Bangla research reports in Star Magazine

The Star Weekend Magazine published a review of the research booklets produced by the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Programme at BDI on 9 April, 2010. The review highlighted the following BDI publications launched at the Ekushey Boi Mela:

- i. Narir Chokhey Media: Shombhabonar Notun Dar? by Aanmona Priyadarshini
- ii. Kormokhetre Nari: Akangkha o Shimaboddhota by Sakiba Tasneem
- iii. Nari o Dhormo: Akti Poribortonsheel Shomporko by Sahida Islam Khondaker and Samia Huq
- iv. Nari Andolon abong Shomorthon Toirer Koushol: Akti Porjalochona by Sohela Nazneen and Maheen Sultan
- v. An overview piece titled "Bangladeshey Narir Khomotayon: Bitorko o Shombhabona," by Sahida Islam Khondaker and Firdous Azim, which is available in the boxed set of reports.

The review can be read at <http://www.thedailystar.net/magazine/2010/04/02/research.htm>. The research booklets are available through University Press Limited (UPL) and at the BDI office.

3. Stories of Change Book Project

The Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme at BDI has commenced a writing project called 'Stories of Change'. The project will allow the Programme to explore what storytelling might offer as a way of using our research findings and make interventions in the representation of women in society. It will draw on the Pathways research data in generating story-lines and content, and selected case studies will then be fictionalized, with an attempt to include local mythology for developing the stories. The best stories will then be put together in a book that will be published nationally towards the end of this year. The partners of the Pathways South Asia Programme in Pakistan will also be involved. The Pathways Programme has signed a contract with Shamim Azad, a well-known poet and performer based in the UK, to lead this project.

4. Sohela Nazneen on BBC Buzz Programme on ATN

Sohela Nazneen, Research Fellow at the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme at BDI, was a guest at the "BBC Buzz" programme on ATN on 9 April, 2010. The programme featured a discussion on the identity crises experienced by second-generation Bangali immigrants abroad, mainly in the US and UK.

5. Professor Firdous Azim speaks at BDI Lecture Series on "Representations of Poverty in Literature and Art"

Professor Firdous Azim, Lead Researcher at the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme, gave a talk about the problems of representation of poverty in literature and in art on 1 April, 2010 at BRAC University. She placed the iconic famine sketches of Zainul Abedin into the literary debate on realism,

drawing from the writings of Tagore and Nazrul Islam. The lecture also looked at how policy formulation also takes on a notion of realism, trying to translate the 'voices of the poor' into policy actions. This talk was part of the "BDI Lecture Series", held on the first Thursday of every month.

CfL Update

Creole Language Survival Course for BRAC Staff to Haiti



A short course was held for the doctors and technicians of BRAC Limb & Brace Fitting Centre (BLBC) who have recently gone to Haiti to help the earthquake victims. As there were no teaching facilities available to teach the Haitian Creole language in Bangladesh, CfL took the initiative and challenges to teach the BRAC staff. The feedback from the learners was very much positive; and, according to them, the course was practical and useful.

English in Schools (EIS) MoU signed with The Daily Star

BRACU CfL has signed a MoU with The Daily Star, a leading English daily, for the English in Schools (EIS) programme. Under the deal, BRACU-CfL will develop English-learning materials for the EIS programme, which currently operates in 1000 secondary schools across the country.



Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, director of Centre for Languages; Dr Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University; Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star; members of the Daily Star and the faculty members of the Centre for Languages were present at the agreement signing ceremony.

Workshop on Learner Autonomy and Teachers Role in Language Classrooms

A workshop was conducted on 22nd April 2010 by Sanjoy Banerjee, Senior Lecturer of CfL. Thirteen faculty members from CfL took part in the workshop. The focus of the workshop was on the 'learner autonomy' and the 'teachers' role' in language classrooms. The workshop aimed at helping the teachers to develop ideas about how they can conduct activities such as ice-breaking, group work and pair work in learner-centered classrooms.

ENH Update

ENG 439 School Visits

On 3rd and 8th April, the students of Eng 439: Teaching Practicum went on study trips to Cambrian School and College and Aurni Biddalay respectively to observe the teaching methodologies used there. The course Eng 439 focuses on the techniques and methods of language teaching in the classroom, so this trip allowed students to observe these methods in practice.

As part of their coursework, the students will be required to write observation reports based on the visits. The study trips were coordinated by the course teacher Ms. Asifa Sultana, Lecturer, ENH

Meeting over Tea

The Department of English and Humanities organised a tea party on April 12, 2010 to acknowledge the cooperation of all the schools that participated in the Creative Writing Workshop held on the 20th of March 2010.

Professor Firdous Azim greeted the guests and handed over the certificates to the school principals on behalf of Nayantara Communication and the ENH Department. The meeting was presided over by the acting VC, Professor Golam Samdani Fakir. All the schools registered a very positive feedback and expressed a wish for more such programmes in the future.

ENG 440 Documentary Screening

On April 12, 2010, the course instructor for ENG 440 English for the Print Media, Mahtab Haider organized a screening of the documentary Man-Eating Tigers of the Sundarbans, a BBC Natural World and Animal Planet co-production, which focuses on the rising tiger-human conflict in the Bangladesh Sundarban, following the success of a scheme to train street dogs to deter prowling tigers from straying into villages. The documentary screening was part of the department's efforts in sharpening the students' understanding of indigenous traditions and cultures, how they are changing, and how this change is portrayed in cross-cultural investigations.

The film was followed by a discussion on the challenges of making the documentary, with wildlife filmmaker and cameraman, Tanjilur Rahman, and BBC Natural History Films Editor, Steve White. This session offered practically oriented knowledge for the media students of the department. Rahman and White, both spoke about the challenges they faced in filming and editing the documentary. Students and teachers, as well as the guests were part of a lively post-film tea session, during which both guests spoke at length to individual ENH students interested in making their own films.

ENG114 Dramatic Presentations

The students of ENH staged a dramatic presentation on the 13th of April, 2010. This presentation was a part of the course titled, Introduction to Drama. Supervised by their course teacher, Rukhsana R.Chowdhury, the entire programme was conducted by the students. They were responsible for all aspects of staging; from sound and music to lights and costumes etc.

The audience was enthralled by the powerful acting skills of these amateurs. There was a wide variety in the emotional intensity of the scenes, which ranged from profound tragedy to light-hearted comedy. The presentation ended to the sound of thunderous applause.

Final Thesis Presentations

The graduating students gave a presentation of their final theses on 29 April, 2010. Following are the names of the students and their thesis topics:

B.A in English

Sharmin Suravi Salahuddin: Using Strategies during reading aloud and silent reading in ESL classrooms



M.A in English

Syedzadi Selina Khanom: Techniques of Teaching Grammar

Bilkis Fahmida: Bangladeshi Tertiary Level Students' Common Errors in Academic Writing

The external examiners were Mr. Bijoy Lal Basu and Begum Shahnaz Sinha from the Department of English, University of Dhaka.

ESS Update

ESS Lecturer attends International Conference in Turkey

ESS Senior Lecturer Md. Abdul Wohab presented a paper titled 'Impact of Childhood Sexual Abuse on Children's Psychology and Employment' in an International conference on Psychology, Counselling and Guidance at Antalya, Turkey.

The conference was held on April 21-25, 2010. Academics and practitioners from 56 countries across the world attended the conference and presented their research papers on various subjects. Editors of high impact journal Professor Marilyn Campbell, Australian Journal of Guidance and Counselling, Professor George Wright, Journal of Behavioral Decision Making, Professor Tim Lewis,

Journal of Behavioral Disorders and Professor Margaret Harris, British Journal of Developmental Psychology highly appreciated Wohab's presentation and made some valuable comments on the paper. Professor Tim Lewis showed interest to publish the paper in his journal after a minor edition.



Seminars/ Presentations Organized by ESS Department

Two seminars were organized by the Department of Economics and Social Sciences on 1st and 29th April'

2010, entitled, "Borrowing Choice in the Urban Micro-Finance Sector" and "Ocean Governance: Implications for Bangladesh." were presented by Dr. Atonu Rabbani, Research Fellow at Institute of Microfinance (InM) and Dr. A K Azad, Research Director of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies" (BISS) respectively.

Seminars Attended by ESS Faculty members

Mahbuba Naznin Sani, Lecturer and Senior Counselor, Department of ESS attended a seminar on 'Mental health in National Development' in Senet Bhaban of University of Dhaka (DU) on April 15, 2010 organized by Department of Clinical Psychology, DU. Professor Dr. Graham Powel renowned British Clinical Psychologist was the keynote speaker. Honorable Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. A. S. M. Arefin Siddik graced the seminar as a chief guest. Professor Dr M.S.I. Mullick, Department of psychiatry, BSMMU was also present in the seminar as a special guest. Professor Dr. Graham Powel provided some important statistics in his presentation to make a clear picture of mental health in Bangladesh where he presented the effective guidelines by which a great contribution can be made in the national development of Bangladesh. Professor Dr. Mullick indicated that at present mental health is a big issue in our national development. The government has already realized it and started to take initiative to appoint mental health practitioners in medical colleges as well as educational institutes. BRAC University has taken the initiative to implement this service as well.

IGS Update

The Affiliated Networks for Social Accountability (ANSA), housed within the Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University organized three Gambhira performances titled 'Tothyo Jana Harge Odhikar', to raise awareness on the Right to Information Act, in Dhaka, on Pohela Boishakh, (14 April 2010). 'Tothyo Jana Hargo Odhikar' was written, directed and performed by the renowned theatre group, Prachyanat, at three significant locations around Dhaka city. Gambhira is a folk theatre format extremely popular in the northwest of Bangladesh. The Gambhira explored many problems ordinary people run into when faced with having incorrect, or lack of, information about government services and practices, and how the Right To Information Act may be used to rectify that situation.

Journalism Training and Research Initiatives - JATRI of IGS organized a Dialogue on 'Right to Information Act & Investigative Journalism Techniques'. Ralph A. Frammolino the celebrity Journalist of The Los Angeles Times facilitated the discussion with the journalists of The Daily Adhinayak (upcoming), who had also received training from JATRI in the month of March.

JATRI organized an exposure visit of crime reporters to Anti Corruption Commission on 6 April, 2010 for senior and mid-career journalists from leading newspapers who had also received a specialized training course on 'Techniques of Investigative Reporting' from JARTI in December 2009. Issues related to crime, corruption and unlawful activities were discussed while visiting the commission. Colonel Hanif Iqbal, Director General-ACC briefed the activities of ACC followed by a question-answer session.

JATRI organized its 1st refreshers on 20 April, 2010. The refresher was facilitated by Mr. Mohammad Sanaullah, Head of News and Program, ABC Radio. The main training was organized the last year on 28-30 April. Ms. Barbara Dury, former CBS 60 Minutes Producer and Mr. Farid Hossain, Bureau Chief, AP facilitated the training. The total number of the participants was 20 in the training. This Training was designed for Broadcast Journalists of Rajshahi and representatives from different broadcast participated in this three-day program. Hasan Azizul Huq, renowned writer was present in the opening session as the Chief Guest. Professor Nurullah, Pro-VC, Rajshahi University distributed certificates among the participants in the closing session of the training. Prohash Amin, Editor, News and Current Affairs, ATN News and Mir Masrur Zaman, Joint News Editor, Channel i were present in the training program as resource persons. The program was intended to enhance the knowledge of the participants about investigative reporting for broadcast media in Bangladesh. The training was also focused on the ethics of investigative journalism with a purpose to make the participants practice the ethics while reporting.

JATRI organized a lecture on "Broadcast Journalism in Bangladesh" at JATRI premises on Thursday, 08 April, 2010 at 10.00 am. Prominent broadcaster and Chief of Bangla Service of Voice of America (VOA), Mr. Iqbal Bahar Choudhury delivered the lecture which was followed by a question-answer session. Senior journalists, media professionals from electronic and print media attended the program.

Munyema Hasan and Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associates of IGS attended a regional workshop on right to information (RTI) titled "Toward More Open and Transparent Governance in South Asia" held in New Delhi, India from 27 to 29 April, 2010. Delegates from Mexico, Canada, and South Africa along with the eight SAARC countries participated in the workshop. The Chief Information Commissioner of Central Information Commission, India inaugurated the workshop and stakeholders from SAARC countries presented country reports on State of Transparency Regimes in South Asia, Challenges and Opportunities before Governments, Information Commissions, and Media and Civil Society. Participants from Mexico and South Africa spoke on Access to Information. A resolution on priority for different stakeholders and the region was adopted at the end of the workshop where two ideas floated by the IGS team were included. These are comparative studies for best practices on RTI in South Asia and annual meeting of all Information Commissioners of South Asia for their capacity building. Indian Institute of Public Administration organized the workshop with support from the World Bank Institute.

MNS Update

Departmental Meeting

A meeting of the Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences (MNS) was held on Thursday 01 April 2010 at 09:30 a.m. in the MNS Conference Room (UB 1521). Professor A. A. Ziauddin Ahmad presided over the meeting and the faculty and staff members were present in the meeting. The Chair requested the faculties to be more vigilant in the exam halls and strict about any unfair means resorted to by the students. He also asked them to maintain the core working hours as decided by the university. Furthermore, he announced the tentative course distributions for the ensuing Summer 2010 Semester. He also said that a new Department of Pharmacy had since been opened.

National Crops and Forestry Biotechnology Policy Guidelines

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Dr. Aparna Islam attended a day long National Workshop on "National Crops and Forestry Biotechnology Policy Guidelines". The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology (MOSICT), GOB on 7 April, 2010 at the Bangabandhu Novotheatre Auditorium, Dhaka. The final draft of the guidelines as presented in the workshop was prepared in line with the National Policy on Biotechnology approved by the government. Professor Choudhury was the Convener of the Committee for formulation of the National Policy on Biotechnology. Participants from different universities, R&D organizations, private enterprises took part in the discussion on the document. Architect Yeafesh Osman, State Minister, Ministry of Science and ICT, GOB was the Chief Guest of the Inaugural Ceremony and took part in the discussion as well. During the long discussion many suggestions came from various participants which included elaboration of global status of biotechnological research in the introduction, inclusion of bioinformatics as a research field in the document, developing sandwich programmes with laboratories having advanced techniques, prioritization of research with short, medium and long term goals etc. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury suggested having coordination between various institutes belonging to public and private sectors within the country as many institutes have similar research programmes in biotechnology. He also suggested that in addition to international collaboration the guidelines should also include regional collaboration as that would be more easily accessible. At the end of the discussion, several modifications of the document were adopted for inclusion in the final draft.

MNS Seminar

Ms. Lopamudra Chakravarty, Lecturer in Mathematics at the Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences gave a seminar entitled ""Comparative Study of Fourier Transform and an Approach of Fast Fourier Transform in Solving BVP of PDE"" on Sunday, April 18, 2010, at 10.00 am in Room UB 1521. The talk was on Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) as against the Fourier Transform in solving boundary value problems (BVP) of partial differential equations, in particular, in the case of wave equation. The approach of FFT used is based on Bill Davis and Jerry Uhl's work with FFT, known as Fast Fourier Fit (FFF) in differential equation. In this work Mathematica and FORTRAN codes have been used for both Fourier Transform and Fast Fourier Fit to implement the solution procedure of BVP of partial differential equations. Comparison of the two approaches shows similar results but FFF does the job more efficiently than Fourier Transform. Faculty members of MNS and other departments and some students attended the seminar.

Consultation Workshop on Biosafety Rules of Bangladesh

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the Consultation Workshop on Biosafety Rules of Bangladesh

held at the Chameli Auditorium of the Paribesh Bhavan, Agargaon, Dhaka on 29 April 2010. Professor Choudhury is a Member of the Formulation Committee of the Bangladesh Biosafety Guidelines 2006 and the Bangladesh Biosafety Rules 2010. He is also a Member of the Biosafety Core Committee formed by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, GOB.

The participants in the workshop included a good number of academicians, researchers, government officials, civil society members, NGO representatives and members of the news media. Mr. Mihir Kanti Majumder, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) was the Chief Guest and Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) was the Special Guest of the Inaugural Ceremony. Dr. Robert Potter, Senior Associate of the AGBIOS, Canada was a Guest of Honor. He emphasized the importance of biosafety rules for commercialization of biotech products. Through the day-long consultation and input from different participants, the draft was largely improved and will be finalized soon.

New Teaching Assistant Joining the Department

Ms. Nudrat Lohani Nabi joined the Department as a Teaching Assistant in Physics on April 01, 2010.

Teaching Learning Center (TLC) Update

Series Seminar on "Stress and Stress Management"

On 7th April, Wednesday, 2010 Counseling unit of Teaching Learning Center of BRAC University organized a series seminar on "Stress and Stress Management". The seminar was open for all faculty members. The objective of the seminar was to sensitize people about stress and its management.



Dr. Golam Samdani Fakir, Acting vice chancellor, BRAC University commenced the seminar by his welcome speech. He explained how stress occupy our daily life. He also encouraged the participators to continue this series seminar to know how to manage stress. Farida Akhtar Consultant, Counseling Unit, BRAC University expressed in her presentation on what is stress, why stress produces, causes of stress and symptoms of stress. All participators participated in different activities. They made a pyramid through different movement with a candle in hand which represented the unity of BRAC University Family from the same platform. They also participated in debate on the statement 'Stress is an essential part of life, don't bother.' Facilitator made a nice conclusion from the debate that moderate level stress is needed for well performance but extreme stress make our life hell, so we must need to know how to manage stress. The next session will be held on stress management.

Seminar on "Mental health in National Development"

On 15th April, Thursday, 2010 Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Dhaka organized a seminar on 'Mental health in National Development' in Senet Bhaban of University of Dhaka. Professor Dr. Graham Powel renowned British Clinical Psychologist was there as a keynote speaker. Honorable Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka, Professor Dr. A. S. M. Arefin Siddik graced the seminar as a chief guest. Professor Dr M.S.I. Mullick, Department of psychiatry, BSMMU was also present in the seminar as a special guest. On behalf of Counseling Unit in BRAC University, Mahbuba Naznin Sani, Lecturer and Senior Counselor; Mozumdar Arifa Ahmed and Shahenour Akhter, counselor, participated at the seminar cordially.

Professor Dr. Graham Powel provides some important statistics in his presentation to make a clear picture among the condition of mental health of the people in Bangladesh. He presents the effective guideline for the two most common disorders modeled by National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NHS) and 'Stepped Care Model' provided by NICE in USA. Bangladesh can also fight against mental illness by following this road map and afford a great contribution in national development. Honorable Vice Chancellor of University of Dhaka, Professor Dr. A. S. M. Arefin Siddik expresses his hope by exploring the contribution of clinical psychology and psychology department of University of Dhaka in reducing mental illness in our country. Professor Dr. MSI Mullick, Department of psychiatry, BSMMU indicated that at present mental health is a big issue in our national development. The government has already realized it and started to take initiative to appoint mental health practitioners in medical colleges as well as educational institutes.

School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) Update

Inauguration of CARG, Dept. of EEE, A New Beginning

On the 6th of this month Professor Md. Quamrul Ahsan presented his research findings on "Electric Power Crisis in Bangladesh and Its Potential Solutions" at BRAC University. The Event was organized by Control Application Research Group (CARG), Department of Electrical And Electronic Engineering (EEE), BRAC University. CARG is a rather young research group with expertise and activities in an area of system and control engineering. The event was especially important because the official website of CARG (<http://carg.bracu.ac.bd>) was launched by Professor Md. Sayeed Salam, Chairman, Department of EEE, BRAC University, at the beginning of the event. The general outline of the event was, the website launching ceremony then the presentation and finally a lively discussion session between the speaker and the invited guests, mostly distinguished personals from major organizations from the power sector of Bangladesh. The first event organized by CARG was wrapped with a Vote of Thanks from Marzia Alam, lecturer at the department of EEE, BRAC University and finally refreshments were served among the guests.



The paper presents the unmet demand of a typical summer and a winter day and the annual maximum un-served demand of last few years. To present an idea about the magnitude of economic impact due to un-served energy in the society the paper evaluates the annual power interruption cost. The generation capacity expansion is a solution to meet the growing demand and to reduce the un-served energy.

However, the installation of generating units requires time. To reduce the present crisis some of the factors regarding system operation, (i) optimal economic operation of thermal units and (ii) exhaustive use of hydro resources, are discussed along with their impacts on the reduction of the present crisis.

Along with the strategies to reduce the present electric power crisis the generation expansion is also an option to meet the growing demand. This paper discusses the generation expansion planning procedure. In expansion analysis, the major issues are the fuel for producing electricity and the money for the implementation of the optimal plan. These two issues for BPS are critically analyzed in the paper to arrive at a conclusion. It is expected that the analysis will help system planners derive options for fuels and generation of fund.

Finally, this month has been very eventful for CARG as a major conference IASTED 2010, International Conference on Control and Applications, has recently accepted a paper titled "Performance Comparison of Traffic Light Control System Using GAL and FPGA". It is considered to be a major achievement for CARG.



Technical Seminar on Web & Software Industry Opportunities- Beyond 2010

On 12th of April 2010 (Thursday), a technical seminar on Web & Software Industry Opportunities- Beyond 2010 was organized by School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) and Blueliner Bangladesh. The main objective of this seminar was to give idea about current web technology and its implication in our real life. The seminar was conducted by Arman Rousta (CEO, Blueliner NY), M. Mahbubur Rahman, Hasin hyder (CEO, Leevio), and Nhm Tanveer Hossain Khan (CTO, Tasawr Interactive).

Conference Publications

These are the following conference Publications from School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) in April 2010

[1] I. Asad, M. Asaduzaman, T. Sobhan, S. Morshed and A. Azad, "Performance Comparison of Traffic Light Control System Using GAL and FPGA" Proceedings of International Conference on Control and Applications IASTED 2010, Canada.

[2] A. Sultana, R. Rahman and S. H. Kazi, "An XML-Based Platform Independent Integrated e-Learning System (IELS) for the Rural and Remote Areas of Developing Countries" Proceedings of The 2010 International Conference on Education Technology and Computer (ICETC 2010), June 22 - 24, 2010,

Shanghai, China.

School of Public Health (SPH) Update

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

MPH PROGRAM

Courses

The course Biostatistics (MPH 521-1) was held from March 28 - April 15, 2010. The course was taught by Dr. Shawkat Goni, and the Teaching Assistant was Tanvir Hasan from the School.

The course Quantitative Research Methods (MPH 520) was held from April 18-29, 2010. The course was taught by Kazi Mizanur Rahman from ICDDR,B, and the Teaching Assistant was Dr. Enamel Hasib from the School.

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (CEP)

A two-week training course on 'Engendering the Health System in Bangladesh' was organized by Health Economics Unit of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh from April 12-26, 2010. James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) played the role of key recourse in conducting the course. Dr. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director of JPGSPH, and the other faculties of JPGSPH including Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Associate Professor, Dr. Dina Siddiqi, Visiting Professor, Prof. P.C. Sarker, Policy Advisor, FSNSP, Dr. Farah Mahjabeen Ahmed, Coordinator, Continuing Education Programme conducted most of the classes, and Md. Saiful Islam Sarker, Research Associate, was the Teaching Assistant.

HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR SERIES

Human Resources in Bangladesh Health Sector



Dr. Muhammad Abdus Sabur currently working as the Team Leader of the Programme Support Office (PSO) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in Government of Bangladesh presented on Human Resources in Bangladesh Health Sector on April 15, 2010. Dr. Sabur talked on the complexity in Bangladesh health sector, especially the challenges in human resource sector. He explained the mal-distribution, HRH skill-mix imbalance etc issues in health sector in Bangladesh. The lecture was held in Savar TARC campus for the MPH students.

Click Diagnostics

Mridul Chowdhury, Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder of Click Diagnostic gave a lecture on Click Diagnostic's health activities. Mr. Mridul talked about how Click Diagnostics is rapidly emerging as one of the global leaders in the area of mobile telemedicine with operations in several countries in Africa and South Asia and recognitions/awards from USAID Global Development Challenge, MIT 100K Business Competition and Legatum Fortune Technology Prize. The seminar was held on April 29, 2010 at the MPH classroom at Savar TARC campus.

SCHOOL EVENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

SEMINARS

Dr. Sabina F Rashid and Dr. Nasima Selim held a seminar for 200 undergraduate students of BRAC University on April 3, 2010 at the Savar TARC campus organized by CFL BRAC. Dr. Nasima Selim gave a talk on how to take care of the body, mind, and spirit. Dr. Sabina F Rashid gave a talk on sexual and reproductive health concerns of men and women. The lectures were followed by a documentary film and a Q&A session with the students. A gynecologist was present at the seminar to answer any health-related inquiries. There were separate sessions for females and males.

ACADEMIC STUDY GROUPS (ASG)

World Health Day 2010: 1000 cities, 1000 lives

Dr Anwar Islam and Dr Nasima Selim leading the discussion with JPGSPH faculty

On the occasion of the World Health Day 2010, the Academic Study Group (ASG) at James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH), BRAC University organized a discussion on 2010 year's theme: 1000 cities, 1000 lives.

Professor Dr. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean & Director of the School chaired the session. Dr. Nasima Selim, Lecturer at the School provided a brief introduction to the theme followed by Dr. Islam elaborating on his article, "Health in mega city of Dhaka: Unanswered challenges" published in New Age on April 7, 2010. Dhaka made its debut as a mega city in 2001 with a population of 13.2 million and its projected population in 2015 is close to 24 million. He spoke on the importance of reflecting on what kind of city Dhaka will be in 2015 and beyond. What are the urban challenges facing us right now? Do we have adequate access to clean water and sanitation? Do we have parks and open spaces for recreation and health activities like walking and jogging? Do we have safe and marked pathways for cyclists? With unplanned housing and shopping centres, with a critical shortage of water and electricity, and with jammed streets, rising violence, stress and a general sense of doom- Dhaka is already labeled as the "2nd worst city to live in". Where is the solution to this 'crisis of living' in our only metropolis?



Dr. Islam's talk was followed by a brainstorming session by the faculty, researchers and staff at JPGSPH on suggesting steps that can be taken now in real time to improve urban conditions on an individual level, in the workplace, the university and in the greater Dhaka city. Some of the concrete suggestions for individuals and the workplace included: taking the stairs to work, recycling unused papers, making space in office to exercise, social interactions over lunch, practicing relaxation technique etc. Some suggestions for systematic steps to involve the university and greater Dhaka city were: forming a health club at BRAC University, safe building for people with disability, regulate canteen food content, providing health education. As a dynamic and growing school, JPGSPH will continue discussions with government and non-government, national and international partners to move forward with this year's theme to improve urban conditions in Dhaka and the other metropolitan cities in Bangladesh.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director, attended a reception held at Sonargoan Hotel on April 7, 2010 organized by World Health Organization (WHO) on account of the World Health Day. The reception brought together international and national public health experts.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Dr Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director, published an article in New Age on April 7, 2010. The article was titled "World Health Day 2010: Health in mega city of Dhaka: Unanswered Challenges".

Dr Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor and MPH Coordinator, co facilitated a workshop on SRHR for thirty NGOs held on April 13, 2010 organized by Oxfam Novib and held at BRAC Centre.

Dr Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor and MPH Coordinator, attended a day-long workshop on building a platform for SRH needs on April 22, 2010 organized by Royal Embassy of Netherlands and held at the Royal Park Hotel.

Dr. Dina Siddiqi, Visiting Scholar and Coordinator of Sexuality Network, published a scholarly article titled "Production of Knowledge: Non-Governmental Organizations: Bangladesh" in the Encyclopedia of Women & Islamic Cultures. General Editor Suad Joseph . Brill, 2010. Brill Online.

Dr. Nasima Selim, Lecturer, published an article in the Journal of Mental Health, Religion & Culture titled 'An extraordinary truth? The Adam suicide notes from Bangladesh' 13 (3), 223-244 published by Routledge, UK.

Student Affairs Update

Computer Club (BUCC) Activities



Microsoft Seminar: Empowering the Students of BRAC University

Computer Club (BUCC), have signed with Microsoft Bangladesh for MSDNA Academic Alliance (MSDNAA). Under this program all existing students, faculties, and staffs will get many Microsoft software development tools and genuine Windows 7. As a part of it, BUCC organized a technical seminar on Empowering the Students of BRAC University by Microsoft on 1st April, 2010. The seminar was conducted by David Lim (Audience Lead, Developer & Platform Evangelism, Microsoft Singapore),

Mehfuz Hossain (Team Lead, Telerik Inc, Bulgaria and MVP, Microsoft), Ashic Mahtab (Software Architect, Earthware Ltd, UK and MVP, Microsoft), MJ Ferdous (British Telecom), and Omi Azad (Developer Evangelist, Microsoft Bangladesh Ltd.). Over 140 participants were present.



Organized Presentation competition: Win a trip to Singapore

On 6th of April 2010, presentation competition was held titled "Win a trip Singapore" organized by Computer Club (BUCC) and Microsoft Bangladesh. 14 participants presented in this completion from different departments in BRAC University. The topic was What is new in Windows 7? Abdussamad Ahmed Muntahi, Md. Shamsul Kaonain Noman from CSE and Nazmus Saquib from EEE were respective judges. Two students were selected for national final from BRAC University. Scoring of the competitors included marks given by both judges and the audience.

Three Microsoft Student Partners from BRACU

On 24th of April 2010, three computer club members were selected to become Microsoft Student Partners from BRACU based on their voluntary performance during 2009 and 2010. These students carrying Photo ID card will be assisting students, faculty members and staffs in getting free selected Microsoft software. Thanks to them for volunteering! They can be contacted for help with MSDNAA and DreamSpark programs. They are: Md. Eftakhairul Islam Rain, eftakhairul@student-partners.com; Mahbub Zaman Ananda, mahbub@student-partners.com; Amit Kumar Dey, amitkumardey@student-partners.com