

BRACU President to be Knighted for Work on Poverty



President BRACU, Founder and Chairperson of BRAC, Fazle Hasan Abed, is to be knighted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for services in tackling poverty and empowering the poor in Bangladesh and more globally. Abed's name was included in the Queen's New Year's Honours List released December 31, 2009.

Abed is to be appointed Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George (KCMG). He is the first person of Bangladesh origin to be honoured with a knighthood by the British Crown since 1947. Abed receives his knighthood for his work spanning four decades in education, health, human rights and social development and for bringing financial services to the doorstep of millions of the poor in an effort to eradicate poverty in Bangladesh and countries in Asia and Africa.

On receiving news of his knighthood Abed said, "I am humbled by the honour to be conferred on me. I thank my colleagues in BRAC, who are at the forefront of the struggle to eradicate poverty in Bangladesh and abroad and I share this honour with them."

Abed is the second person in his family to be honoured with a knighthood. His grand uncle, Justice Nawab Sir Syed Shamsul Huda, was knighted by the British Crown in 1913.

BRACU Ex Pro-Vice Chancellor joined IPRCC

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, BRACU Ex Pro-Vice Chancellor joined International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) as their Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) on the December 01, 2009. IPRCC is an international centre focusing on Research, Training, Exchange of People and information and project cooperation with developing countries. This Centre was set up jointly by the Chinese Government and UNDP and other international organisations in 2005 in Beijing. More about IPRCC, please visit <www.iprcc.org.cn>

Architecture Update



Critique Week

Generally, the last week of the semester is scheduled for the final Critiques of the design studios. Final Critiques of design works of freshmen through final year were held this semester from 13 December to 17 December, 2009. Marina Tabassum, Tanvir Ahmed, Sheikh Ahsanullah Majumder, Ehsan Khan were present as guest critics in different critique sessions. Prof. Fuad H Mallick, Prof. Zainab F Ali, all faculty members and other students of the department attended the jury as well.

ANGAN Lecture by Architect A Q M Abdullah

Architect A Q M Abdullah a former founding faculty member of the Department of Architecture, BRAC University and currently working as an architect in PERKINS+WILL, Chicago, USA, a well-known architectural firm in the world, delivered a Lecture on various projects he is currently involved in. The lecture held on 17 December 2009. He shared his experience and the concept and design process of sustainable buildings, which was inspiring for the students.



Faculty Sajid-Bin-Doza's second solo exhibition of architectural sketches

Architect Sajid-Bin-Doza, Senior Lecturer of Department of Architecture, BRAC University held his 2nd solo exhibition at the La Galerie of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka from December 4 to 17, 2009. A twelve-day exhibition of architectural sketches titled "Ghor: Kachhey Thakar Char Deyal, the Story of Mud and Thatch" consist of 27 sketches representing vernacular architecture which includes structures made of mud and thatch. Professor Rafiqun Nabi, eminent artist and Dean of Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University presided over the inaugural ceremony. Renowned Poet and Architect Rabiul Husain and Chief Corporate Officer of GrameenPhone Kazi Monirul Kabir were also present among others.

Internship of the Department of Architecture

To fulfill the requirement for the Degree of Bachelor of Architecture in BRAC University, an architecture student who has completed her/his fourth year need to work as an architectural trainee at an architectural firm of repute. The architectural firm can be in Bangladesh or abroad. The objective of the internship is to gain knowledge of the professional practice. As a requirement of ARC 300: Practical Training, the following students have completed their internship from 13 September to 17 December 2009.

ID, Name, Name of the Firm

05208006 MUHAMMAD ZAQIUL ISLAM Architect B K S Inan CAD Ltd House no-CWN (B)18/B Road-44, Gulshan-02, Dhaka.

05208010 SALZAR RAHMAN Architect Khan Md. Mustapha Khaled Vistaara Architects (Pvt.) Ltd. Apt. D1, SE(H)6, Road 143 Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212

05208013 NAZILA MEHNAZ Architect Khan Md. Mustapha Khaled Vistaara Architects (Pvt.) Ltd. Apt. D1, SE(H)6, Road 143 Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212

05308012 SUBHASISH PAUL Architect Abu Hena Ziauddin Riddhi Architects 8/44,7th floor, Eastern Plaza Sonargaon Road, Dhaka

05308017 MOHSINA TABASSUM Architect Sheikh Ahsan Ullah Mojumder Aesthetes House no-11/A Road no-13(new) Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

06108001 FARHANA HAKIM Architect Tarique Hasan Tarique Hasan and Associates House-70, Road-11, Block-D Banani, Dhaka-1230

06108003 NABILA NOWRIN Maureen Pisani SZFM Design Studio 601 Fourth StreetLoft 211,San Francisco, CA,94107

06108004 NAHID SHARMIN Architect Satprem Maini Auroville Earth Institute Auroshilpham, Auroville 605 101-T.N. India.

06108005 MOHAMMAD MARUF HASAN Architect Tughlaq Azad Shamannay Architects Apt-3,16/10 Madhubag Maghbazar,Dhaka-1217

06108007 TAREK MD.SAIDUL ISLAM Architect Ehsan Khan Vitti Sthapati Brinda Ltd. 02 Shangshad Avenue (3rd floor) Dhaka 1215

06108008 SONIA ISLAM Architect Enamul karim System Architects (Pvt.)Ltd. Flat-2, house-36/A,road-2, Dhanmondi,Dhaka-1205

06108009 SAMIA SALEH Architect Nurur Rahman Khan Tanya Karim N.R. Khan & Associates House# 24, Road # 9A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209

06108011 BADIA BADRUDDOZA Architect Marina Tabassum Marina Tabassum Architects House 13/a, Road 3 Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205

06108012 RAIYAN SAMIUL HAQUE Architect Muhammad Foyez Ullah Volume Zero House-98, Road-25, Block-A Banani, Dhaka

06108013 FAHIM MOSTAFA Architect Muhammad Foyez Ullah Volume Zero House-98, Road-25, Block-A Banani, Dhaka

06108014 AFRINA ISLAM Architect Jalal Ahmed JA Architects Gr. Floor, House-78/1, Road 7A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

06108016 SYED MEHBOOB HOSSAIN Architect Muhammad Foyez Ullah Volume Zero House-98, Road-25, Block-A Banani, Dhaka

07108029 SADIA NISHAT Architect Nurur Rahman Khan Tanya Karim N.R. Khan & Associates House# 24, Road # 9A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209

053080131 TASADDEK HOSSAIN Architect Patrick D. Rozario Synthesis. Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka

BDI Update

PATHWAYS OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME, BRAC DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

i) Participation in Seminar on "Status of Women in CHT Peace Treaty"

Sahida Khondaker, Samia A. Rahim and Aanmona Priyadarshini attended a half-day seminar on "Status of Women in CHT Peace Treaty" at the National Press Club on 3rd December, 2009. The seminar was organised by Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) and drew on their recently completed work on their study to analyze the Peace Treaty and its implementation from gender perspective.

ii) Field Work begins for CHT Media Research

The Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme at BDI commenced the field work of its research on Minority Media Production in the Chittagong Hill Tracts District. Aanmona Priyadarshini was in Khagrachori during the month of December to conduct field work for the project- she interviewed media personalities, built her network of contacts and gathered local media productions for analysis. She will be returning in January for the second round of field research.

iii) Workshop on the Institutionalization of the Pathways Programme

The Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme, which is due to end in March 2011, held a day-long workshop to brainstorm how the Programme could institutionalize its work so far and continue the work and collaborations it has undertaken so far. Members of the Citizenship Research Programme at BDI, which is due to end in 2010, also took part in this workshop. The workshop took stock of the pool of skills and resources that the members bring, the issues that people are keen on continue working on and the new topics that researchers would like to explore.

iv) Articles published in Samakal newspaper

The Pathways Programme at BDI published a series of articles in the Samakal newspaper during the month of December.

- An article on Women Health Workers titled "Ghorer bou, shomajer 'apa'" by Mohammed Kamruzzaman was published on 8th December. It focuses on the research done on Women Health Workers as part of the Empowering Work research theme.
- The article "Narir Chokhe Media" by Aanmona Priyadarshini was published on Friday, 18th December. The article is based on the 'Women Watching TV' research that was undertaken by the Pathways Programme under its Changing Narratives of Sexuality Research Theme.
- The article 'Putro naki konya' written by Sakiba Tasneem was published on 30th December. It is based on Pathways Research on Empowering Work that explored sex preferences of women in rural Bangladesh.

v) Preparation of Research booklets for Boi Mela

The Pathways programme is publishing shorter versions of their various research reports to produce as 'choti bois' for the Boi Mela in February 2010. Researchers have been busy drafting these reports during the month of December, and they have been sent for review to the BDI Publications Committee.

vi) Preparation of research on sex preferences

Simeen Mahmud and Naila Kabeer are leading a research on sex preferences among women in Komorpur, Faridpur. M. Kamruzzaman and Sakiba Tasneem will be part of the team carrying out the research. The entire team began planning and preparing for the field work in December.

CfL Update

New Chinese Language Teacher



Mr. Abdur Rahim joined CfL on December 19, 2009 as a full time Chinese language teacher. He earned his M.A degree from Dhaka University in Linguistics in 1996 and later obtained B.A. in Chinese Language and Culture (2002) and M.A. in International Relations (2006) from Beijing Language University of China. Prior to his joining BU CfL, he worked in the United Kingdom as an interpreter of Chinese language in a multinational financial service

agency.

Workshop held on 'Collaborative Learning'

A workshop on 'Collaborative Learning through Effective Group Work' was held at the Centre for Languages on December 21, 2009. Ms Annie Polatsek, TESOL Teacher Trainer, SIT, USA, facilitated the session with the objective to discover the group dynamics in language classrooms. In the workshop, the group-work methods and techniques were demonstrated along with discussions on the advantages and challenges of incorporating them in formal classroom setting.



Workshop on 'Responding to Student Writing' and 'Teaching Grammar: From the Impossible to the Possible'

The first workshop conducted by Beth Trudell, Senior English Language Fellow was on December 30, 2009 on "Responding to Students' Writing." She focused on the importance of feedback in students' learning as the best way to reinforce classroom instruction. Clear and specific comments explaining and giving solutions for students' problems work best; and feedback should praise what students did well

and give ideas for improvement on areas where students did not do well. She also added that feedback should be considered as a two way communication between the students and a teacher. Her final suggestion was to use a color other than red in giving feedback as red ink may imply a negative connotation.

On December 31, 2009 Beth conducted her second workshop on 'Teaching Grammar' at CfL. She stressed that teaching grammar in isolation to students did not work well because they could not utilize it in real life practice. Her recommendations were that 'real-world' tasks should be used in the classroom, students should be encouraged to revise their own written work and read it aloud to 'hear' their errors. After the presentation, there was a lively discussion session where the participants voiced their opinions and asked questions to clarify their confusions.

Free Chinese Short Course for BRACU Students and Faculty Members

CfL is offering a free Chinese language course for BRACU students, faculty members and staffs, conducted by a native speaker level, well experienced Bangladeshi Chinese teacher. China, one of the worlds' most ancient civilizations, having a record of nearly 5000 years, today has emerged as a global economic power, and more people from foreign countries are learning Chinese for trade, industry and financial opportunities in China.

1st Batch Class Begins: January 5, 2010 Class Time: 14:00 hrs - 15:00 hrs Duration: One week / 5 classes
2nd Batch Class Begins: January 14, 2010 Class Time: 14:00 hrs - 15:00 hrs Duration: One week / 5 classes

ENH Update

Speaker in a Seminar

A seminar titled "Empire and English Studies: Pedagogy and Activism Now" was held at East West University on 11th and 12th December 2009. Professor Firdous Azim was a speaker at a panel titled "Activism in Academics."

Seminar on Being Bengali: At Home and Around the World

A seminar titled "Being Bengali: At home and Around the World" was held at BRAC Center on 13th December 2009. The English and Humanities Department and the Society Research Group of the University of Western Sydney jointly organized the discussion commemorating the Victory Day and the Martyred Intellectuals Day.

The discussion looked at the new diasporic Bengalis, and how class and religious issues affect the lives of Bengalis living outside the borders of the two Bengals. The discussion also focused on historic and cultural aspects of what constitutes the Bengali, as well as new influences at work in the shaping of this identity. The conference was well attended by cultural personalities, academics and young researchers.

IGS Update

Seminars and Workshops

The Affiliated Network on Social Accountability (ANSA) South Asia of the Institute organized a three-day residential workshop on 'Strengthening Citizen Engagement in Procurement: Reviewing experiences, identifying challenges and exploring opportunities'. The workshop was organized at BRAC Centre for Development and Management (BCDM) from the 8-10 December 2009. The workshop had about 40 participants which comprised practitioners from the Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka to share experiences and the workshop concluded with country road maps for future activities in procurement.

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), in collaboration with IFC, BEI and KDI conducted a two-week residential Civil Service Training Program on Private Sector Development from 01-18 December, 2009. The training program was held in International Training Center (ITC) of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Center (BPATC), Savar. Twenty six civil servants mostly at the rank of deputy secretary attended the program.

As a part of the certificate programme on Environmental Governance, students went on a two-day field visit to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment on tannery industry. They visited the Hazaribagh tannery area in Dhaka city and BISIC Industrial area in Savar on 19 December, 2009 and 20 December, Dhaka respectively. They visited river area, industrial plots and villages very close to the proposed industrial area in Savar. The three-month certificate course concluded with the field visit on 31 December, 2009.

The Affiliated Network on Social Accountability (ANSA) South Asia, in collaboration with the ANSA Africa and ANSA East Asia-Pacific organized a workshop on 'Climate change and social accountability' at the CABINN Metro Hotel in Copenhagen, Denmark. The workshop was organized during the Conference of Parties (COP) 15 in Denmark to target practitioners and interested people for greater involvement in this issue. Nuzhat Jabin, Project Associate at the Institute presented on the areas of work for ANSA South Asia, particularly in the area of climate change

Journalism Training and Research Initiative (JATRI) of IGS, organized a one day orientation course on "Ethics and Standards of Journalism" on 11 December, 2009. The training course was arranged for the fellows of News Network. The course covered standards and ethics of journalism, challenges of women journalists and scope of work for JATRI with women journalist. Mr. Sharifuzzaman Pintu, Chief Reporter, The Daily Prothom-Alo shared his experiences of working as a journalist with the participants.

A three-day training on "Investigative Journalism" for the crime reporters was organized from 22-24 December, 2009 at JATRI conference room. The coordinator of the training was Mr. Farid Hossain, Bureau Chief, AP. The contents of the training were ethics and standards of investigative journalism, legal aspect of crime reporting, building and cultivating source for investigative reporting etc. Col. Hanif Iqbal, DG, Anti Corruption Commission and Dr. M. Enamul Huq, former IGP and member of Law Commission were also invited as resource persons for the training. Col. Hanif Iqbal spoke about news collection, information

gathering and questioning and Dr. M. Enamul Huq discussed on legal aspect on crime reporting.

The Certificate Giving Ceremony for 'Techniques of Investigative Reporting for Print Journalism' was organized by JATRI. The open discussion session was moderated by Mr. Farid Hossain, Bureau Chief, AP. The trainees of the program then shared their experiences about the program. Afterward, Advocate Mr. Shamsul Haque Tuku, the State Minister for Home Affairs spoke before distributing the certificates to the trainees. The event was covered by print media such as The Daily Prothom-Alo, The Daily Samakal. ATN Bangla also telecasted the event in the evening news of the day.

JATRI participated in America Week 2009 held in Rajshahi. During this three-day event thousands of people including His Excellency, the U.S. Ambassador James F. Moriarty and Honorable Minister, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Mr. Ghulam Muhammed Quader visited JATRI stall. Besides that JATRI organized a roundtable discussion in Rajshahi during America Week with the journalists and media professionals of Rajshahi to share their views about JATRI.

JATRI organized its Strategic Planning Meeting on 06 December, 2009 at the JATRI conference room. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Sanaul Mostafa, Director, BBS, BRAC University. Among others, prominent columnist Mr. Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, Mr. Shahnoor Wahid, Assistant Editor, The Daily Star, Mr. Ajay Das Gupta, Chief, Editorial Section, The Daily Samakal were present in the meeting.

IGS provided faculty support for the governance component of the training program on RBA-Governance & Advocacy organized by CONCERN- Bangladesh for its project executives at BRAC Inn on 12 December, 2009. The topics covered were Governance: Concept & Issues, Characterization of Governance, Participatory Governance & Social Accountability, and Right to Transparent Governance. Dr. Rizwan Khair, Academic Co-ordinator and Dr. Gopa Kumar K. Thampi, Chief Operating Officer of ANSA at the Institute, Bijan Lal Dev, Deputy Secretary of Government of Bangladesh and Professor Dr. Salahuddin M. Aminuzzaman of Dhaka University, conducted the day-long sessions.

MNS Update

Life Skills Training, 12 December 2009, Gazipur

Ms. Lopamudra Chakravarty Lecturer in Mathematics, MNS Department has been involved in Girl Guides activities since 1990. At present she is a young leader and also a Member of Executive Committee of the Bangladesh Girl Guides Association (BGGA). On the 12th December, 2009 she attended the life-skills based reproductive training for in-school youth and adolescents through peer approach. This training was jointly organized by BGGA, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, GoB and UNFPA. The training was organized at Gazipur Mohila College, Gazipur. Ms. Chakravarty is a master trainer of life-skills training. Through this training young girls come to know about building a strong and sound personality with which they can deal with different situations of life. In addition to this, trainers inform them about reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, dowry problems, bad effects of childhood marriage, HIV, AIDS, gender equality, and women & children trafficking. It was a day-long training programme where young girls got to know a few very important things through peer approach and promised to spread the message to others.

Visit by UGC Team for the Undergraduate Biotechnology and Microbiology Programmes

A team from the Bangladesh University Grants Commission (UGC) led by Professor Amena Begum, Member UGC visited BRACU on December 15, 2009 in connection with BRACU's proposed undergraduate programmes in biotechnology and microbiology. The other members of the team were Professor Md. Anwar Hoassain of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka, Professor Md. Mozammel Hoq of the Department of Microbiology, University of Dhaka and a couple of officials from the UGC. The team was first given an introduction of BRACU and various programmes taken under the MNS Department. They were then taken around the facilities including laboratories for both microbiology and biotechnology programmes and the BRACU Central library. Professor A.A.Z. Ahmad, Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Dr. Aparna Islam of the MNS Department and Mr Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar of BRACU were present in the meeting with the UGC team.

Seminar on "The Change Detection Study of Sagar Island, Bay of Bengal Using Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS)"

The above-mentioned seminar held on December 19, 2009 at the National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI) office at 10/8 Eastern Plaza (9th Floor), Sonargaon Road, Dhaka-1205 was delivered by Ms. Mirza Taherun Nessa, Senior Scientific Officer of the Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO). The seminar dealt with the excellent possibilities of application of satellite data coupled with GIS for mapping, monitoring and measuring the various parameters of coastal zone area helping to develop a sustainable coastal management strategy plan with special reference to Sagar Island in the Bay of Bengal. Both spatial and non-spatial data in and around Sagar Island were used with a view to generating a database for effective coastal management. Members of NOAMI and other guests attended the seminar and the function was presided over by Professor A. A. Z. Ahmad, Chairman, NOAMI.

JSPS Symposium on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, 19 December, Jahangirnagar University

The Bangladesh JSPS Alumni Association organized its First Symposium and the Annual General Meeting of the Association on 19 December 2009 at the Senate Hall of the Jahangirnagar University. The symposium was supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). The theme of the symposium was science and technology for sustainable development. Professor Takashi Uemura, Emeritus Professor, Osaka University and Professor Feroze Ahmed, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology presented the keynote papers on the theme of the symposium. Professor Syed Modasser Ali, Advisor to the Prime Minister on was the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony. Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, President of the Bangladesh JSPS Alumni Association, chaired the inaugural ceremony. Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Mr Tamotsu Shinotsuka was also present at the inaugural ceremony.

Concluding Workshop of "Assistance in the Formulation of Enabling Regulatory Measures for Research and Sustainable Application of Biotechnology Project"

Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor of Biotechnology in the MNS Department attended the above-mentioned concluding workshop held on December 20, 2009 at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Dhaka. It was organized by BARC and Ministry of Agriculture, GoB with financial and technical assistance of FAO. Delegates from National Agriculture Research System Institute (NARS), Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), public and private universities, and NGOs participated in the workshop. The participants stressed on the need to formulate an action plan to carry out research in the field of biotechnology. During the programme, the activities and achievements of the project were discussed. The draft regulation for IPR protection, the plant transformation laboratory manual and a book regarding biosafety of GMOs were handed over to the Chief Guest of the function, Mr. M. Abdul Aziz, Cabinet Secretary, GoB.

25th Annual Conference of the Bangladesh Society Microbiologists, Dhaka University

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the 25th Annual Conference of the Bangladesh Society of Microbiologists, held at the Conference Room of the Department of Microbiology, University of Dhaka. Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique was the Chief Guest and Professor Choudhury was the Special Guest of the Inaugural Ceremony. The theme of the conference was emerging diseases and health. A large number of microbiologists from different universities and research organizations in the public and private sectors participated in the conference and dealt on various aspects of the different pathogenic organisms with special emphasis on swine flu.

Visit by Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh Team for the Undergraduate Programme in Pharmacy

A team from the Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh visited BRACU on December 29, 2009 in connection with BRACU's proposed undergraduate programme in pharmacy. The team included Professor Dr. Chowdhury Mahmood Hasan, Professor Dr. Md. Abdur Rashid, Professor Dr. Md. Habibur Rahman of the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Dhaka and Mr. K. K. Shaha, Secretary of the Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh. The team had preliminary discussions about the curriculum, laboratories, class rooms and library facilities for the undergraduate pharmacy programme. Professor A.A.Z. Ahmad and Dr. Aparna Islam of the MNS Department and Mr Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar of BRACU were present in the meeting with the team. After the meeting the team visited the central library, the laboratories and the classrooms.

International Young Scientists Congress



Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Coordinator Biotechnology, Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor, Biotechnology and Ms. Fardousi Ara Begum, Lecturer, Mathematics and Ms. Jebunessa Chowdhury an MS student of Biotechnology participated in the International Young Scientists Congress organized by the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences in collaboration with the Inter Academy Panel on International Issues (IAP) and the Third

World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) held on 29-30 December 2009 in the auditorium of the National Museum of Science and Technology, Agargaon, Dhaka. Seven young scientists from Malaysia, Nepal and China and over 350 young scientists from different universities, research and development organizations of Bangladesh participated in the Congress. Besides them a good number of renowned, teachers, researchers, scientists and policy maker were also present. The theme of the congress was "Young Scientists for Development".

Architect Yeafesh Osman, Hon'ble State Minister for the Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology, GoB was the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony. Prof. Dr. M. Shamsher Ali, President, BAS and the Vice-Chancellor Southeast University presented the keynote paper and presided over the inauguration. Prof. Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury, Secretary BAS delivered the welcome address and acted as a moderator in the inaugural session.

Two research papers were presented from BRAC University Biotechnology Programme. Ms. Jebunessa Choudhury presented her MS thesis research work entitled "Establishment of in vitro regeneration protocol in locally grown tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Miller)", while a way forward with this result to face climate change challenge and food security was reported by Dr Aparna Islam in a paper entitled "Preparing to face challenges of climate change through agriculture biotechnology".

The young scientists presented not only their own research findings on some important global issues like climate change, sustainable development, renewable energy, food security, emerging diseases, but they also talked about the problems they faced. Major issues that were discussed were fund raising for research and scopes for training abroad. The Congress formulated some important recommendations for engaging young scientists in different development activities of the government.

Career Services Update

Job Placement (December, 2009)

A.S.M Moshir Rahman |Banglalink

Rafiul Newaz |Bangladesh Online Limited (BOL)

Chowdhury Tasmiah Jabeen |IIDFC

Tania Shahaly |e-Zone

Shamim Ahmed |Credit Rating Agency Bangladesh Limited

Mohammad Mahmudur Rahman Shawon |United Leasing Company Ltd.



5th Convocation Photo-Session

Career services Office (CSO) has arranged the 5th convocation photo session for the convocation brochure from December 06 to December 12, 2009 at BRAC University Indoor Games Room. Each day the photo session took place from 9:00am to 5:30pm. A number of about 450 photos were taken of prospective

graduates of 5th Convocation from all the departments. Students attended the photo session according to the given schedule by CSO. Glitters Photographers were assigned to conduct the session with their full logistic setup. Nine volunteers were assigned to maintain photo session register and to help the students by providing information regarding convocation photo session.

Internship Orientation Spring 2010

CSO has organized Internship Orientation, Spring 2010 on December 17, 2009 at 3.00 pm. The orientation duration was of two hours and prospective BBA interns were given a full overview starting from getting an internship to completion of BUS 400 successfully. 32 students were present at the session. Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-Charge, CSO briefed the complete internship process and the Dos & Don'ts throughout the internship period. End of the program there was a question answer session where all the students asked

their queries regarding internship.

Eastern Bank Ltd. Road Show at BRACU Campus

BRAC University Career Services Office(CSO) and Eastern Bank Limited (EBL) jointly organized EBL Road Show on December 14, 2009 in BRAC University Indoor Games Room at 11.30am - 02:00(noon). The Road Show took place to demonstrate various features of the "Management Trainee Officer" MTO program offered by EBL. MTO program aimed at recruiting fresh potential graduates from renowned universities of the country preferably from Business discipline. Dr. Sanaul Mostafa, Director, BBA program inaugurate the session with a short welcome speech. Md. Sirajul Islam, Head of Human Resources; EBL along with resource person from different department shared their views and information regarding MTO program during the session. Two of BRACU BBA graduates were present at the session who are currently working as MTOs at EBL also shared their views and experience with EBL to our current students. After the session there were a question answer session took place. The session ended with a short note of thanks by Ms. Sabrina Shahidullah, In-Charge, CSO.

Student's Achievement:

Following students have enrolled in Institute of Business Administration, Dhaka University for regular MBA program for Spring 2010:

- 1.Rahib Maruf Iftekhar (06104053)
- 2.Manizeh Shahrin Sayeed (06104032)
- 3.Kazi Faria Shaoli (05204027)
- 4.Samah Binte Salim (05104128)

New Joining of Career Services Officer:

Ms. Maksudatul Alam has joined CSO as Career Services Officer from December 27, 2009. She has worked as Front Office Manager with illuminateBD Ltd. and she has obtained her MBA from United International University

School of Law Update

Lecture on 'The Democratization of Democracy - How Modern Direct Democracy can Make Representative Democracy Truly Representative'



The BRAC University Law Club organised its first lecture on 'The Democratization of Democracy - How Modern Direct Democracy can Make Representative Democracy Truly Representative' By Dr. Bruno Kaufmann, political scientist, conflict researcher, journalist and President of the Initiative and Referendum Institute - Europe (IRI-Europe).

The lecture took place at the Video Conferencing Room, University Building 19th Floor on 03 December 2009 at 3:00 pm. The topic of direct democracy was a new one for the students of law and generated a lot of questions regarding elections, responsibilities of citizens after elections, corruption, the strength and weaknesses of the 'NO-vote', etc. Dr. Kaufmann, who is on a 5-month tour of South and Southeast Asia highlighted his lecture and his answers to the questions with experiences in Japan, China, Korea as well as his homeland of Sweden.

Lecture was titled: "The International Criminal Court: A Court of Last Resort for Humanity's Worst Crimes"

The School of Law hosted a lecture programme for the President of the International Criminal Court, Judge Sang-Hyun Song on 06 December 2009 at the BRAC Centre Conference Room at 3:00 pm. The lecture was titled: "The International Criminal Court: A Court of Last Resort for Humanity's Worst Crimes". In his lecture, Judge Song told the students about the need for the formation of the International Criminal Court and its activities. He praised the School of Law, BRAC University, for generating an interest in the issue of human rights and the International Criminal Court among its students. After his 45 minute lecture, Dr. Saira Rahman Khan of the School of Law thanked him and opened the floor for questions. The question and answer session lasted for twenty minutes, and the range of questions was broad - from the appointment of



judges to the ICC and the funding of the ICC to human rights abuses in Guantanamo Bay and the liability of suppliers and manufacturers of weapons of mass destruction. A total of 90 students attended the programme - a majority from the School of Law, while members of the BU Debating Club and the Global Forum were also present.

SPH Update

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (CEP)

Dr. Faruque Ahmed, Director of BRAC Health, providing opening remarks University of Aberdeen, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) BRAC University, offered a regional short course for two weeks on Monitoring and Evaluation of Maternal and Neonatal Health Programme in December 6 -17, 2009 at .JPGSPH. The short course was designed to strengthen capacity in developing countries for programme monitoring and evaluation in the context of global reproductive health goals. It was attended by national (JPGSPH, BRAC Health Programme, RED, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, DGHS, DGFP, Eminence, CWHC and POPULATION COUNCIL) and international participants (Cambodia and Vietnam). There were 22 participants in total. Ms Eram Cooper, Research Associate from JPGSPH, attended the course. The course was inaugurated by the UNFPA Country Representative Mr. Arthur Erken, Mr. Faruque Ahmed, Director BRAC Health, was present as the chief guest and the Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Samdani chaired the opening session. The course was coordinated by International Facilitator Krystyna Makowiecka from LSHTM and Dr. Farah Mahjabeen Ahmed from JPGSPH as the National Facilitator. The last course was offered in Tanzania.

CENTRES AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES

GFATM PROJECT - 913

Dr Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director of JPGSPH, handing out certificates to participants A three-week long course was held at BRAC Training and Resource Center (TARC), Uttara, Dhaka, on December 13- 31, 2009. A total of 21 participants including three females attended the course from 12 project districts. The main purpose of the training was to contribute to better management and quality implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention program in the field level by developing the capacity of mid-level managers.

The major contents of the course included updated information of HIV/AIDS, HIV transmission, HIV infections & OIs, management of OIs, VCT, diagnosis of HIV, preventive measures of HIV/AIDS, behavior change communication, vulnerability, peer education, gender & HIV/AIDS, human rights, care & support for PLHA, management and health management, planning, team building, monitoring and evaluation. Two field visits were also included in the course design.

A formal concluding session was held at the end of the course. The participants were awarded with certificates for successful completion of the course. Dr. Mohd. Ali Belal, Line Director, National AIDS/STD Programme and Safe Blood Transfusion Programme, Professor Dr. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director of JPGSPH, BRAC University and Ms. Ismat Bhuiya, Team Leader of JPGSPH, BRAC University Consortium and Senior Programme Officer of Population Council attended the session.

BANGLADESH HEALTH WATCH (BHW)

A team from Rockefeller Foundation (RF) visited Bangladesh during the third week of December accompanied by Dr. Mushtaque Chowdhury, Associate Director, The Rockefeller Foundation, Asia Office, Former Deputy Executive Director BRAC and Former Dean of James P Grant School of Public Health. The purpose of their visit was to meet with the key actors from the health sector in Bangladesh. So a meeting followed by a dinner party was organized by Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) on December 20, 2009 at Ideaz Manzil. All the working group members along with Dr. Rounaq Jahan, the convener and chair of the advisory committee of BHW were present in the meeting. Delegates from other organizations like ICDDR,B, RTM international, BSMMU also participated in the meeting. After the introduction of BHW and their activities, a discussion took place about the existing situation of the health sector in Bangladesh and how Rockefeller Foundation could be engaged in the future.

WORKSHOP

Scientific Writing Workshop

The two-day workshop was facilitated by Dorothy Southern, Training Analyst, PIDVS, ICDDR, B . It covered various aspects of scientific writing for research conducted with qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods. The first day was spent on an overview of scientific writing providing a guideline for researchers to develop a high level outline of manuscript, identifying common errors found in scientific papers, and highlighting specific grammatical structures and stylistic strategies to achieve clarity and conciseness. The second day was spent on individual manuscript development focusing on thinking before writing, reviewing the structure of a scientific manuscript, understanding what information goes in each section of a manuscript, and using specific styles related to scientific writing. The final outcome of the workshop was to prepare a high level outline of a manuscript based on the recent research the participants were involved in. Participants included junior faculty members and researchers from James P Grant School of Public Health, department of Architecture, Disaster Management at BRAC University and ICDDR,B. Fourteen participants who attended the full workshop and worked on their high level outline of an intended manuscript received certificates at the end of the workshop from Professor Anwar Islam, Associate Dean & Director, JPGSPH. The certificate ceremony was attended by Dr. Dina Siddiqi, Professor Prafulla Sarkar, and Dr. Farah Mahjabeen Ahmed from JPGSPH.

MEETINGS AND VISITS

A meeting was held at UNAIDS Bangladesh on December 28, 2009 between James P Grant School of Public health, BRAC University and UNIADS Bangladesh. The main agenda of the meeting was to share ideas on a possible study on "Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP survey) of HIV/AIDS and Sexuality among Undergraduate Students of a Public and a Private University". The Coordinator of the Centre for Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS, Dr. Sabina F Rashid accompanied by two Research Associates at JPGSPH, Owasim Akram and Tanvir Hasan were present at the meeting.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director of JPGSPH attended a public seminar on Climate Change and Health at Officers Club on December 13, 2009. The seminar was attended by noted practitioners and experts from the health sector of Bangladesh. The Secretary of Health of the Government of Bangladesh spoke at the seminar. Professor Profulla C. Sarker, Adjunct Professor and Senior Policy Advisor of National Food Security and Nutrition Surveillance Project, also attended the seminar.

Dr. Hilary Standing, Visiting Professor and Fellow Institute of Development Studies University of Sussex, chaired a session at the workshop on Pleasure and Women's Empowerment during December 14-16, 2009. The workshop was sponsored by the Sexuality and Development Programme and the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Research Programme Consortium, both funded by the UK Department for International Development.

Dr. Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor and MPH Coordinator, took two sessions of the third Introductory Course on Qualitative Research Methods organized by ICDDR,B on December 14 and 22, 2009.

Dr Nasima Selim, Senior Lecturer attended a Multi-country Meeting of Experts on Globalization as a Social Determinants of Health in December 9-11, 2009 at Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was funded by WHO/SEARO and organized by Mahidol University, Thailand.

Dr Nasima Selima, took two sessions of the third Introductory Course on Qualitative Research Methods organized by ICDDR,B on December 23, 2009.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Two articles by Dr Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director of JPGSPH, were published in New Age newspaper in December. The titles are listed below ♦

Human Resources for Health in Bangladesh: Are we faced with a deepening crisis? New Age. December 8,

2009

Stewardship of Health System: Challenges and Constraints. New Age December 16, 2009

Students Affairs Update

BUFC (BRAC University film Club)

Kothopokothon- a new practice in any private university

On 15th December 2009, another success was added to the history of BRAC University Film Club with Kothopokothon - one of the biggest events that have been organized by BRAC University Film Club. BRAC University Film Club invited the crew of the MOST AWAITED MOVIE of 2009 3rd Person Singular Number (3spn) to the campus of BRAC University. The guest list was appealing to students as Film Club invited Anisul Haq (the writer of the film), Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, Tisha, Topu (who is the actor of the film 3psn) Marjuk Russell, Mosharraf Karim, Shumi, Leemon and Chobial group and they all swarmed in indoor games room on 15th December 2009.

BUDTF (BRAC University Drama & Theater Forum)

ABAR ORA ASHCHE

Somebody once said, "Life is a stage and we all are mere actors". Well, whether or not, we can ever comprehend if he was right, and our lives are nothing more than lines from a divine script, one stage could definitely be seen in the indoor games room of BRAC University on the 12th of December. It was the stage, on which freshers, i.e. students of the batch Summer 2009, acted, sang and danced their hearts out that day. It was the stage that was constructed by the BRAC University Drama and Theatre Forum (BUDTF) for one of the most exciting events of the year, "ABAR ORA ASHCHE"!

Although the official preparation of the event began from the 6th of December, the seeds for this event were sown right after the orientation program for the fresher's by BUDTF. The new recruits were divided into six groups and were asked to come up with a script, completely, of their own. For days, people spent sleepless nights, drank tanks of coffee and banged their heads on the table as they tried to come up with the perfect script. As the deadline neared, nervous tension was at an all time high with thoughts like, "Allah, shesh korte parbo to Boro bhaiara amar script pore hashbe na to Allah, ki hobe(nail biting in progress)". But, in the end, six scripts emerged amongst which two were chosen, "Pordar Arale", written by Amiya Aziz and "Trimatrik Mata" written by Avijit Kundu.

BUNHF (BRAC University National Heritage Forum)

National Memorial

On 16th December, 2009 National Heritage Forum went National Memorial of Bangladesh. More than 80 Student and 15 Office staff went there.

BUECC Takes A New Name

The name of BRAC University Electronic and Communication Club has first been added to the association of BRAC University clubs in 30th October, 2007. The club ran after this name for more than two years. Last semester the program of ECE (Electronic and Communication Engineering) which was under CSE Department (Computer Science and Engineering) has been shifted under the new department. BRAC University for the first time launched Electrical and Electronic Engineering, encased with ECE program. All this while BUECC had been the club for ECE program solely. But with the introduction of a new department, the club took a new identity as well. Thus the name of the club has been changed to BRAC University Electrical and Electronic Club (BUEEC) from its previous name BRAC University Electronic and Communication Club (BUECC). From January 1st, 2010 the club has been officially registered as BUEEC. At present the Advisor of the club is Dr. A.K.M. Abdul Malek Azad. Although started with few members in hand, but over the months the name and fame of the club had been wide spread. With a new year and a new identity under the new-fangled leader, BUEEC promises to work even harder than it has done in the past. We hope the club will shine to the peak and retain the name to its best.

ELECTROQUEST

Electroquest is talent-based competition that BUEEC arranges for its engineering students each semester. The event was launched on 5th of December in the indoor game room of the BRAC University cafeteria. The event had been named as "Electroquest" as it was solely associated with electronics and electrical field.

The initial stage of the competition was choosing the best 5 groups out of all the participants. This was the general level. Each group was handed out a questionnaire that contained few questions. The groups to answer the maximum correct answers were chosen to participate for the next rounds. After the top 5 groups were selected, round one began. The scheme for round one was simple. It was a rapid fire session where each group was asked 10 questions from the category they selected. The questions were categorized from the fields of general knowledge, wireless communication, data communication, sports, literature, and geography and such. There was a time limit within which one member from the group had to answer. An additional benefit for the groups was introduced that enabled them to trade "chance" for one wrong answer.

The next round was the buzzer round. The questions were thrown openly, the first group to buzz the buzzer got to answer. For each wrong answer, the marks were deducted from the total score and the questions were passed out to the next group volunteering to answer. The maximum number of right answer bearers was promoted to the last and final round, eliminating the lowest scorer group. The last round was called "make a guess" round. One member from the group was selected who would be exposed to a hidden term. With only three clues, the member had to make his group mates understand the term without even uttering the actual word or something synonymic to it. The groups were marked on their ability to rearticulate the clues. The group with the best word choice was marked the highest.

After the end of the third and the final round, the competition came to an end. Outstanding all the other teams, the winning group was Amran Kabir, Sardar Md. Imrose and Rafquat Nizam. They were handed out prizes along with certificates. With a concluding speech from the President himself, this great event came to an end.

Computer Club (BUCC) Activities

Technical seminar on Virtualization and Parallelization for using Opportunistic Idle CPU Resources for CERN

A technical seminar on Virtualization and Parallelization for using Opportunistic Idle CPU Resources took place on 26 December, 2009 at GDLN Conference Room. The speaker was Mr. Md. Mamunur Rashid PhD student of Cranfield University, UK. He is currently working at CERN - the European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland. In this seminar, he gave a flavor of latest technology on Virtualization and Parallelization and its current implementation in real world. He also focused on CPU-intensive simulation applications, Very Large samples of data produced by the High Energy Physics, Distributed Grid project, and Access remote volunteer resources in a persistent way.

Seminar on engineering the core of mobile devices



The seminar on engineering the core of mobile devices in terms of Microtechnology and NanoComputer Technology was held on 31 December, 2009 at GDLN Conference Room and it was conducted by Mr. Raihan Rafique, Post Doctoral student of Chalmers University, Sweden. He is currently doing research on Superconducting Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuits and working in Ericsson. He discussed about his research, quantum computing and current industrial experiences of Ericsson. He also talked about student life of Sweden. It was very interactive seminar between speaker and participant.