

2009/july

BRAC University at IEEE 125th Anniversary Student Congress '09, Singapore

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) has come a long way from being an organization of a small group of professionals to the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology. It is now 125 years since IEEE started to make positive impacts in the engineering society. IEEE also serves student members in colleges and universities around the world to foster an interest in the engineering profession. The "IEEE R10 125th Anniversary Student Congress 2009" was held in Singapore at National University of Singapore from July 16 to 19, 2009. It was one of those events which enable students of all over the world, especially of Asia Pacific Region, to celebrate 125th anniversary of IEEE, interact with and learn from the leaders who have established IEEE as a prominent name in the world of technology. Out of 5 student delegates selected from Bangladesh Section 3 were from BRAC University and 1 each from Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology and Khulna University of Engineering & Technology. Among them are 3 executive body members of IEEE BRAC University Student Branch: Nabila Naushin, Rasel Chowdhury and Shiblee Imtiaz Hasan. Along with experience, Bangladesh Section brought home the award for the Most Vibrant Student Section from the congress.

"Sculpturing Student Leaders to Pioneer Sustainable Development" - This was the theme for the IEEE Region 10 Student Congress. For the first time ever, the best of IEEE student volunteers from Region 10 and across the world met, innovated, integrated, interacted and shared ground breaking ideas. The most esteemed dignitaries of IEEE graced the Student Congress and awaken the thinking process. Among the sponsors were IEEE Students Activities Committee, Singapore Exhibition and Convention Bureau, IEEE Power Engineering Society, IEEE Singapore Section Chapter, Microsoft Corporation and many more.

Towards the end of the congress, we, the delegates, all agreed that the most important learning factor was the networking platform which was provided to us by the congress. The IEEE 125th Anniversary R10 Student Congress 2009 created a unified forum for student delegates to get to know each other professionally, technically and culturally, bringing about a potential growth in networking and interregional sharing and development of IEEE student activities. The congress provided unique and unprecedented opportunities for some of the most qualified students in the world to rub elbows with each other, and with a number of eminently respected and influential leaders of IEEE. After the congress, the student leaders carried home an invaluable four days of experience that will have an everlasting impact on their leadership skills and IEEE volunteerism in "Engineering the Future".

Architecture Update

Architecture Week 2009 at BRAC University

Department of Architecture, BRAC University arranged architecture week from 9th to 16th July, 2009. The event was inaugurated on 9th July by Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University.

The weeklong exhibition

The weeklong exhibition showcased selected student projects of the Department of Architecture. Students also decorated their own classroom with their current studio projects.

A one-day Design Charrette

A one-day Design Charrette (design competition) was held on 10th July when more than 150 -students from all architecture schools of public and private universities participated. The design theme was "gateway to the world of dreams". Three well-known architects -architect Foyezullah, architect Marina Tabassum and architect Sheikh Ahshanullah Mazumder were the judges of the competition. The competition was sponsored by Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd. Rupali Chowdhury, MD of BERGER Paints Bangladesh Ltd, gave away prizes for the three winning positions and three honorable mentions. Chairperson Professor Fuad H Mallick, juror Architect Marina Tabassum and Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University, Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury were present in the ceremony. The Winners were Shahida Sharmin Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (first prize), Tarek Md. Saidul Islam, BRAC University (second prize), Md. Asif Imteaz, BRAC University (third prize). Honorable mentions were Khandoker Abu Sayeed, State University of Bangladesh, Nusrat Jahan Mim, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Ahammad-Al-Muhamaymin,

Arch.Kids

The Department of Architecture, BRAC University has an outreach program called "Arch.KIDS (Architecture for kids)". It holds one-day workshop for children of 6 to 10 years of age aimed for fostering the young minds. It originated with the idea of letting our future generation to know about our environment, the architecture and the different aspects that occupies it; about how we shape it and in return how it behaves with us. The children share their ideas, reactions and dreams of the built environment and the infill spaces that we use through different creative fun activities here. There are no preconceived solutions to these thoughts.

The fifth Arch.KIDS event was held on 12th July, 2009 at the studios of the Department of Architecture, as a part of its biannual celebration, Architecture Week. Around twenty eight children from the different strata of the society participated in it, including those from the highest as well as the lowest income groups. The teachers and student volunteers of the department with painter Abul Barak Alvi as the chief guest helped this band to explore their imagination in colors and forms. There was a presentation on birds of Bangladesh by birdwatcher Sourav Mahmud from Jahangir Nagar University.

In this workshop, Children were asked to paint their dream play space. The groups portrayed their play space with stretches of greens, competing with yellows and reds, with blue waves of the sea, with flowering plants and large shade trees, where there will be laughter, songs of birds and scents of flowers. They smeared paints with bare hands; pasted papers to make hiding places, drew delicate flowers, installed model trees. Interestingly there were no fences around anywhere. Each of the groups narrated their projects to the whole crowd with pride that they would play pirates, footballs, garden there, or just run amuck doing nothing particular.

Film show

A famous Bengali film "Surjotoron" was also shown on the next day, 13th July. The Film show was arranged by the department of architecture and coordinated by BRAC University Film Club. The film is from the sixties, bangle adaptation of the 1948 Hollywood film "The Fountainedhead" based on the famous novel by Ann Rynd about the life of architect. Students from different departments enjoyed the film.

ANGAN Discussion session

"Art of the environment" was the topic of discussion of the Angan Discussion Session. Eminent architects Nahas Ahmed Khalil, Khan M Mustafa Khalid, historian Parween Hasan, scientist and landscape designer Dwijen Sarma, artist Mustafa Monwar were the main discussants. Professor Fuad H Mallick moderated the session. The lively event was held on 14 July 2009 Tuesday in the Indoor games room.

In the natural and manmade environment, there are many forms of art which includes the beautiful and appealing ones as well as ugly and non contextual ones either. The discussants spoke from their own point of view and experience. During floor discussion the question regarding the perception of different art form to the different people arose.

Everyone agreed on ensuring proper education for the practice and nurture pure and proper form of art, contextually, in all kind of environment.

Warfaze Concert

The architecture weekended with a concert performed by the popular band Warfaze. The program was arranged by the department of architecture and coordinated by cultural club, BRAC University. More than 250 students enjoyed this concert. The concert was performed peacefully in the Indoor games room of BRAC University.

BBS Update

Guest lecture on Selling & Salesmanship in MKT-422

Mizanur Rahman, Senior Lecturer of Marketing from Lincoln Business School, University of Lincoln, UK gave a guest lecture for the course MKT 422, Selling and Salesmanship. He talked about the strategic issues related to selling and discussed different models of analyzing the macro and micro environment. Namely these are the PESTEL analysis and Porter's 5 Forces model. The guest lecture took place on 29th July, 2009. The guest lecture was conducted by the course teacher, Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Senior lecturer, BBS.

BDI Update

Lecture Series by BDI and Department of Architecture

BRAC Development Institute and the Department of Architecture started a lecture series entitled "Discourses on Development". This lecture series brings experts to BRAC University to present on critical issues in development. Professor S.R. Osmani (Ulster University, UK and Visiting Professor, BDI) was the first speaker of this series and spoke on "Evolution of Development Discourse".

"Financial Services for the Poor: Myth and Reality"- presentation by Syed M. Hashemi at the Department of Economics

Syed M. Hashemi, Director of BRAC Development Institute made a presentation at the Department of Economics on, "Financial Services for the Poor: Myth and Reality". The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

Syed M. Hashemi as panel discussant in CFPR workshop

Syed M Hashemi was part of a panel discussion at the CFPR workshop organized by Dr Imran Matin and his team, titled, "CFPR: Innovations, Impact, and Influence", at the BRAC Centre Auditorium. The objective of the workshop was to share the key findings from research on CFPR and use this knowledge to discuss how we can craft a scaled up, inclusive and forward looking social protection program for the poorest in Bangladesh.

Safina Nazneen attends training on Water and Equity

Safina Nazneen attended a two day training from 29th to 30th of July at BUET on "Water and Equity" , organized by the Institute of Water and Flood Management (BUET). The objective of the training was to familiarize participants with concepts and dimensions of water and equity so that they can be applied in research.

Deepening Democracy, Building Citizenship and Promoting Participation

Meeting with Grameen: The citizenship team met the departmental heads of Grameen Bank on 13th July at the Grameen Bank head office. The meeting started with a presentation on "Contributions of Grameen Bank to Citizenship Building", a survey done on Grameen clients. The presentation was followed by a dialogue on raising awareness on citizenship rights amongst the Grameen clients. The citizenship team also shared ideas about the upcoming "Nagorik Mela" (Citizenship Fair) in January and encouraged Grameen Bank to participate in it.

Kenya Bangladesh Comparative study: The citizenship team is writing a paper entitled "Bangladesh Kenya Comparative Synthesis". It is a comparative study between Kenya and Bangladesh and will look at the contributions of NGOs in both countries that have worked towards building citizenship. The team aims to complete the first draft by mid October.

Meeting with Samata: The team met Abdul Quadir, Founder of Shamata on 6th July at his office to share ideas about the upcoming Nagorik Mela in January and encouraged their participation in the fair.

Submission of Annual Report: The Annual Report for 2008 has been completed and submitted to IDS Sussex. The report highlights all events and achievements of 2008.

Study on Mobilization Strategies of 8 NGOs: A study on mobilization strategies of 8 NGOs - ASA, BRAC, Nijera Kori, Bangladesh Sromojibi Kendra, Grameen Bank, Proshika, Samata and Karmajibi Nari is being done. The title of the study has not been finalized and will be circulated for comments.

Democratic Governance

Report on Slum Profiles: Researchers in the "Urban Poverty and Climate Change" team are writing a report on slum profiles of 10 slums as a part of a larger project titled "Building Capacities and Creating Communities: Towards a Multi-Sector Initiative in Urban Slums of Bangladesh". The researchers have collected information of 10 slums, from 5 different districts on population, demographic profile, economic status, housing conditions and duration of occupancy and developed specific socio economic profiles of these slums. Out of the 10 slums 3 will be selected where BDI and the Department of Architecture will

jointly conduct an action research project. This multi sector project will develop new strategic pathways to ensure tenancy rights, improved health and housing conditions and new sustainable livelihoods to bring about qualitative change in the lives of slum dwellers.

CARE-BDI Study: Jamalpur and Kurigram (Char regions) have been finalized as research sites for the CARE-BDI study on "Strengthening Social Safety Net Programs for the Extreme Poor in Bangladesh". The rest of the research sites will be selected from haor regions and coastal regions. This study aims to assess the impact of different safety nets on the ultra-poor during crises such as natural disasters, climate change and economic crises.

Pathways of Women's Empowerment

The Pathways Programme organized a panel on 'Religion, Culture and Politics: Women Negotiating Islam' at the conference 'Cultural Studies and Asia: Past, Present and Future' in Tokyo. The event was hosted by Cultural Typhoon and the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society and was held at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies from July 3 - 5, 2009. At the conference, Firdous Azim gave a keynote lecture on 'South Asia in Inter-Asia'. Samia Huq presented her paper on 'Music of the Soul' at the panel. Panelists also included two other Pathways members, Islah Jad, from Palestine and Mulki Al-Sharmani from Egypt and two non-Pathways participants, K. Lalita from India and Amina Jamal, from Canada/Pakistan. The papers presented at the conference are expected to be published in a book.

Aanmona Priyadarshini attended the 'International Conclave on Discrimination, Exclusion and Marginalization: Diversity Perspectives', a two day conference held at the BIAM Auditorium in Dhaka during 8th and 9th July, 2009. The conference was organized by Research and Development Collective (RDC) in cooperation with ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB).

The Pathways team attended a lecture by Pathways member, Amena Mohsin, Professor of International Relations at Dhaka University, at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) on 9th July, 2009. Dr. Mohsin presented her paper titled 'Gender and Security: Bangladesh National Regime' and the lecture was followed by a lively discussion session.

Sakiba Tasneem attended at a 2 week course on Logit and Probit Model at the Essex Summer School, UK from 12 - 25 July, 2009.

Elora Shehabuddin, Assistant Professor of Humanities and Political Science Rice University, USA, met with the Cultural History Research team on 26th July. They shared the findings of their past researches, discussed current projects and exchanged ideas about current issues regarding women, religion and politics. The Cultural History Research team held a discussion session with Shaheen Akhtar, writer and researcher, on 28th June. The researchers are reading Akhtar's three volume compilation of women in Bengali literature titled 'Shoti o Shotontora' as part of the literature review for their research. The team had a productive discussion with Ms. Akhtar, who identified resources and gave suggestions for the research.

CfL Update

Sheikh Shams Presents Paper at EATAW Conference, England

Sheikh Shams, Academic Coordinator of CfL, along with John Bean and Kit Bean of Seattle University, USA presented a paper at the 5th European Association for the Teaching of Academic Writing (EATAW) Conference, 30 June - 2 July, 2009, hosted by the Centre for Academic Writing at Coventry University, England. The conference focused on "the roles of writing development in higher education and beyond." The presentation of "Practical Proposal as Target Genre: Teaching Critical Thinking in Bangladesh" was well accepted by everyone in the conference, which was noticeable from the presence of highest number of participants for this specific presentation. It was a full house with more than 50 participants, which was beyond the presenter's anticipation. John Bean explained the theory of Practical Proposal Genre and what prompted his going to Bangladesh, Kit Bean explained some of the materials used in the workshops, and lastly Sheikh Shams covered the importance and relevance of critical thinking pedagogy in Bangladesh, and specifically at BRAC University Centre for Languages (BU-CfL), and also went through some lessons which were created in the aftermath of John and Kit's workshops at BU-CfL. The question/answer session that followed the presentation was very invigorating, and the participants were very interested about what is being done in Bangladesh with Composition Teaching.

S. M. Anwaruddin Receives TFL Scholarship

S. M. Anwaruddin, a CfL Lecturer, has been awarded TFL scholarship to study Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at Loyola University Chicago, USA, for two years. Training Future Leaders (TFL) is sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and provides a full scholarship for qualified, elite emerging leaders from the Near East and Asia to pursue a Master's Degree in the US in various fields of study. Upon completion of the program, Anwaruddin hopes to return to CfL to utilize the acquired knowledge and skills in an appropriate manner.

BEP Creative Writing Wall Magazine

Participants of BRAC Primary School Teachers' Training Program, which is being conducted by BU-CfL, decorated a creative writing wall magazine with their own writings. A launching ceremony was organized at Savar TARC, where the training is being conducted, which was attended by Md. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, Campus Superintendent of Savar TARC, Ramendra Nath Chakrabarty, Services Manager of Savar TARC, and the trainers of CfL who are conducting the training program.

Reeham Receives Full Scholarship

Reeham Chowdhury, a Teaching Assistant at the Centre for Languages (CfL), has received a full scholarship to study Master of Applied Linguistics at Huazhong Normal University in China.

Reflective and Effective Teaching at CfL

S. M. Anwaruddin, a CfL Lecturer, held a workshop on Saturday, 25th July on Reflective Teaching. He shared his knowledge on how to be more effective as a teacher by being reflective about one's teaching methods. He advised teachers to put emphasis on their reflection so as to be able to bring about the effective change in their style of teaching to better assist and aid BRACU students.

Farrah Jabeen Presents at Shakespeare Conference

Farrah Jabeen, a CfL Lecturer, presented her paper "Shakespeare and his Contemporaries" at an ENH Department hosted conference "Contemporary Readings of Shakespeare." The focus of her paper was on the socio-cultural issues as emerged because of transition - the Middle Ages to Renaissance. The paper portrayed the persisting brutal themes - the revenge motive, bloodshed, and thirst for power. The theories of famous political scientists - Prof. Laski, Thomas Hobbs, Machiavelli, and Socrates were also in the discussion as these theories helped evaluate the speaker's ideas from different perspectives.

ENH Update

Professor Firdous Azim delivers keynote address

The 10th anniversary celebration of Inter Asia Cultural Studies was marked by a conference entitled 'Cultural Studies and Asia: Past, Present and Future' held at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo from July 3 to July 5 2009. Professor Firdous Azim gave the keynote address entitled 'South Asian presence in Inter Asia Cultural Studies.'

Lecturers leave for higher studies

Senior lecturer Ms. Sohana Manzoor and lecturer Ms. Nausheen Eusuf left BU to pursue higher studies in the USA. Ms. Sohana Manzoor will be pursuing a PhD in English at the University of Southern Illinois, Carbondale and Ms. Nausheen Eusuf will be pursuing a M.A. in English at the University of Georgia. Their last working day was July 30, 2009.

ENH Department organizes Shakespeare Conference

A Shakespeare Conference was organized by the ENH Department on July 16 2009. Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury, of ENH organized the conference. Vice Chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury gave the chief guest's address and the keynote address was given by Professor Niaz Zaman. The paper givers included Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, Professor Selim Sarwar of North South University and Professor Mohitul Alam of the University of Liberal Arts.

The student presenters included Sanam Ara Amin, M.A. student and Robina Rashid Bhuiyan, third year student of ENH. Students recited Shakespeare's sonnets both in English and in Bangla and did a play reading of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. The Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed gave the closing

remarks. The conference was well attended by faculty of BRAC University and faculty from other reputed universities.

ESS Update

Liberation War Museum visit by the Students of Bangladesh Studies

On July 11 and 25, 2009, a total of 117 students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) went to visit Liberation War Museum and Lalbagh Fort, Dhaka, as part of their academic activities. Department of ESS organized the visit for the students of Bangladesh Studies. In the visit, students were informed about the history and culture of Bangladesh as well as the historical perspectives, archeological evidence and importance of Lalbagh Fort during Mughal period. Faculty members of ESS and house tutors of TARC, Savar accompanied the students.

Village Visit by the students of Bangladesh Studies

On July 11 and 25, 2009, a total of 120 students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) went to visit a village, Sadullapur in Savar, as part of their academic activities. Department of ESS organized the visits for the students of Bangladesh Studies. Students were informed about the livelihood and culture of rural people of Bangladesh. Coordinator of Bangladesh Studies, faculty members of ESS and house tutors of TARC, Savar accompanied the students.

Dr. Mridul Kanti Chakrabarty's Visit to TARC, Savar

Dr. Mridul Kanti Chakrabarty, singer and professor of Music and Drama, Dhaka University gave a guest lecture on Bangla Music for the students of Bangladesh Studies, at TARC, Savar on July 13, 2009. He discussed the contribution of the 'Five Poets' of Bengali Music and also discussed about modern Bengali music. He along with some other faculty members of his department rendered some Bengali songs for the students.

Research Outcome

A research article titled "Trust and Religion: Experimental Evidence from Rural Bangladesh," co-authored by Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Associate Professor, ESS Department was published in the *Economica*, a journal by London School of Economics and Political Science.

Faculty Participation in Training Workshop

Mr. Haydory Akbar Ahmed, lecturer and Mr. A. K. Iftekharul Haque, lecturer, ESS Department participated in a training workshop on the "Competition Policy and Law" organized by CUTS-India and Unnayan Shamannay-Bangladesh with financial support from the International Finance Corporation. This event included sessions on various aspects related to competition, market, and competition analysis spread over nine days from 2nd-18th July 2009. Both received certificates from the organizers. The sessions were held at Dhaka Sheraton and facilitators came from Bangladesh, Switzerland and India.

Faculty Participation in National Seminar and Workshop

Dr. Manzur Karim, Associate Professor, ESS Department gave a lecture on Hegelian Philosophy in a study group session on Marx's Capital organized by Banglar Pathshala on July 4, 2009. He participated as a speaker in a seminar on Ecological Debt, organized by Voice, Unnayan Onnesha, Equity and Justice Working Group, Shushashoner Jonno Procharavijan and Jubilee 2000 at National Press Club on July 27, 2009.

Faculty Participation in Regional Workshop

Mr. A. K. Iftekharul Haque, Lecturer, ESS Department participated in a workshop on 'Regional Budget Analysis and Advocacy' at Kathmandu, Nepal from July 19 to July 23, 2009. The workshop was jointly organized by The Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA) and Oxfam Novib (Netherlands). Different analytical techniques of budget analysis were discussed in the workshop.

MNS Update

Faculty News

Ms. Sharmina Hussain was promoted to the post of Assistant Professor of mathematics at the Mathematics and Natural Sciences Department from 7 July, 2009.

2nd UNESCO Ethics Workshop, 11-12 July 2009, Dhaka

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the 2nd UNESCO Ethics Workshop held at the Planning Commission, Agargaon, Dhaka. Professor Darryl Macer, Regional Advisor for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO, Bangkok, Thailand was the moderator and Dr. Mala Meleisea represented UNESCO Bangladesh at the workshop. Professor Nazrul Islam, Chairman, UGC was the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony and Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, Minister of Education, GOB was the Chief Guest at the concluding ceremony. Professor Choudhury chaired the session on "Medical Ethics" where papers were presented on ethical issues in medical practice and ethical practices in pharmaceutical industries. He was elected Senior Vice President of the Bangladesh Bioethics Association in the general meeting which was held after the workshop.

VC's List & Dean's List, 13 July 2009

Two physics major students of the MNS Department Nakib Haider Protik and Mohammad Murtaza Mahmud have been placed in the VC's list (GPA 3.9) based on their results of Spring, 2009 semester. Another physics major student of the same department, Tahsin Faraz has been placed in the Dean's list (GPA: 3.7 - 3.89). They were awarded the certificates in a brief ceremony in which the Vice-chancellor, Pro-Vice chancellor, Directors, Deans, Chairpersons and the awardees of BRACU were present. The parents of the awardees were also invited to attend the function.

Round Table Conference on Present Status of Biotechnology and its Possible Solution, 15 July 2009, Dhaka

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the Round Table Conference on "Present Status of Biotechnology and its Possible Solution" held at the Centre of Excellence, University of Dhaka. Architect Yeafesh Osman, State Minister for Science and ICT, GOB, was the Chief Guest and Professor Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka was the Special Guest. There were well over 100 guests who attended the conference representing various research and development organizations such as BARC, BARI, BIRRI, BIRDEM, NIB, and BRAC; as well as businessmen and representatives from universities, print and electronic media, and NGO's. Dr. Francis Zapata, Consultant of the BRAC plant tissue culture laboratory at the BRAC ARDC, Gazipur also spoke on the occasion. Professor Ahmed Azad, on behalf of the conference organizers made a fervent appeal to the Chief Guest to consider favourably the recommendations submitted over two years ago related to creation of an autonomous National Commission for Biotechnology, and giving an autonomous status to the National Institute of Biotechnology (NIB) and encouraging public-private partnership. The State Minister made a clarion call to the biotechnologists so that they should work being inspired by the spirit of serving the country and the population at the grassroots level. Prof Naiyyum Choudhury summed up the deliberations and presented the recommendations of the RTC to the State Minister and requested him to consider favourably the recommendations on biotechnology programmes and activities particularly the administration and management of the NIB.

Life Skills Training, 15 & 23 July 2009, Dhaka

Ms. Lopamudra Chakravarty, Lecturer in Mathematics is a young leader of Bangladesh Girl Guides Association (BGGA). BGGA organised a training programme entitled "Life Skills Training" in collaboration with UNFPA and the Ministry of Education, GOB. Ms. Chakravarty acted as one of the master trainers of this training programme. As a master trainer she gave training in Arambag Girls' School and College and Begum Rahima Adarsha Girls' High School on the 15th and 23rd July 2009 respectively. There were other three peer educators with her. This life skills training was meant for girls and young women to inform them about their rights, how to handle various situations, build up personality, reproductive health, evils of HIV/AIDS. They also learnt about the harmful effects of early marriage, dowry, early motherhood etc. Child abuse and gender issues were also discussed.

Thesis Presentation under MS Biotechnology Programme

On the 23rd July, 2009 two students, namely, Ms. Farhana Naznine and Ms. Jebunnesa Chowdhury, under the MS Biotechnology programme defended their thesis dissertations. Title of Ms. Naznine's thesis was "Isolation and identification of enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli (ETEC) from stools of diarrheal patients". The research study was carried out at ICDDR,B under the joint supervision of Professor Naiyyum Choudhury and Dr Firdausi Qadri of ICDDR,B. The second dissertation entitled "Establishment of in vitro regeneration and transformation protocol in tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Miller)" was based on the research work

carried out by Ms. Chowdhury at the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of the University of Dhaka under the joint supervision of Professor Zeba I. Seraj of DU and Dr. Aparna Islam. The event was conducted by a committee consisting of Professor A.A.Ziauddin Ahmad, Chairperson, MNS Department, Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Coordinator, Biotechnology Programme, Professor Firdausi Qadri, Senior Scientist and Head, Immunology Division, ICCDRB, Professor Zeba I. Seraj, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka, and Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor, MNS Department. MS Biotechnology students of the MNS Department and faculties of BRACU participated in the open discussion on both the presentations.

Visit of ICGEB Scientist, Dr. V.S. Reddy

Dr. V. S. Reddy, Group Leader, Plant Transformation Group of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi, India visited the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences to get himself acquainted with the biotechnology programme on 29 July 2009. During the visit he looked through the existing laboratory facilities and discussed about research projects on plant biotechnology with Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Coordinator, Biotechnology Programme and Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor of the MNS Department. Afterwards, Dr Reddy met with Professor A.A.Z. Ahmad briefly and then he along with Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Dr. Aparna Islam and Ms. Adeeba Raihan had a meeting with Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, VC, BRACU. During the meeting Dr. Reddy assured full cooperation of the ICGEB for long and short term trainings of the postgraduate students in biotechnology of BRACU in the field of plant biotechnology. Recently one student of MS Biotechnology programme received a short training in his laboratory at the ICGEB, Delhi. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury emphasized the need for research collaboration and exchange of faculty between the two institutions. Dr. Reddy agreed on such collaboration and invited Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury to visit the ICGEB at a convenient time.

Seminar Organized by the MNS Department

Mr. Mahabobe Shobahani, Lecturer of Physics at the Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences gave a seminar entitled "Magnetoresistive properties of thin films and their applications" on Thursday, July 30 2009, at 10.00 am in the Conference Room (UB 1521). The seminar talk is based on the production technique of thin films and study of its resistive property in the presence of a magnetic field. The use of thin films and magnetoresistive elements in the development of computer memory disk and hard drive read head sensitivity was also discussed in the seminar. Fe-Ag coevaporated thin film of thickness 150 nanometer was prepared in a vacuum deposition chamber and deposited on a polymer substrate. The material shows magnetoresistive property which can be used in hard disk read head for better sensitivity. The seminar talk is based on the experimental study of Mahabobe Shobahani for his M. Phil. Degree from the Bangladesh University of Science and Technology (BUET). Faculty members of MNS and other departments and some students attended the seminar.

An Expose on Solar Eclipse,

Mr. Shamsul Kaonain, a student of the CSE Department gave a brief presentation on the solar eclipse observed at Panchgarh on 22 July 2009 with the help of some beautiful photographs at the MNS Conference Room (UB 1521). A team from BRACU went to Panchgarh to observe the event. Dr. Dipen Bhattacharya, Associate Professor, University of California, Riverside, USA then informed the audience about some details of this eclipse in particular and eclipses in general. Faculty members of MNS Department and quite a few students attended.

SPH Update

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

MPH program

Courses

The course Health Systems Management (MPH 530) is scheduled for the period July 12 - August 6, 2009. Dr. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director of JPGSPH, is currently teaching the course; and Owasim Akram, Research Associate, is serving as the Teaching Assistant. As part of the course the MPH students went on field visits. They interviewed people who have received services from health care providers (formal and informal) within last month. The students visited health care facilities at Gonoswastha Hospital, Dhamrai Upazilla Health Complex, CRP, CWCH, Ad-Din Hospital.

ACADEMIC STUDY GROUPS

ASG on Development Communication

In July, as part of the School's Academic Study Group (ASG) seminars, a presentation was held in JPGSPH conference room on July 7 2009 on skills and strategies of development communication given by Ms. Shazia Ahmed who works in Department for International Development (DFID) Communication. Ms. Ahmed provided a comprehensive overview of the different challenges, expectations, and models of developing effective communication strategy. In addition, she provided writing tips to ensure that the desired message is always disseminated clearly and succinctly. Her presentation was concluded by a lively Q&A session.

ASG on Solving Research Problems in Social Studies

Also in July, as part of the School's Academic Study Group (ASG) seminars, a presentation on Solving Research Problems in Social Studies was held by Mr. Showkat Gani, currently working as a Consultant with the BRAC Research and Evaluation Division (RED) on July 9, 2009 in JPGSPH Conference room. Social research is the scientific investigations on social structures and their functions. It measures, describes, explains and predicts the changes in social and economic structures, attitudes, values and behaviours and the factors which motivate and constrain individuals and groups in society.

ASG on Climate Change and Perspectives

The third and final Academic Study Group (ASG) seminar for July was held on July 22, 2009 by Dr. Enamul Hasib, Research Associate at JPGSPH, in the School's Conference room. Dr. Enamul Hasib presented the knowledge he acquired from the short course he attended at the University of Heidelberg, Germany on climate change. In his presentation, Dr. Hasib gave a comprehensive overview of the nature and evolution of climate and its effects on the human race and on earth.

CENTRES AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES

Centre for Health System Studies

Revitalizing Health for All: Developing a Comprehensive Primary Health Care Model for Bangladesh (CPHC) Project

Data collection of the project 'Revitalizing Health for All: Developing a Comprehensive Primary Health Care Model for Bangladesh' is in full swing. After the initial screening survey at 20 upazilas in and around Dhaka and Barisal districts, the study started at Dhamrai upazila of Dhaka district and Mehendigonj upazila of Barisal district. In-depth interviews of clients and providers, PRA session at village level (in the catchment area of respective Upazila Health Complex) and a household survey has been conducted successfully in both the upazilas.

Impact of the Global Recession on the Health of the Garments Workers of Bangladesh

Data collection from 200 garment employees, 50 garment employers and 108 unemployed garment workers has been completed successfully. Data entry and data management is currently underway.

Centre for gender, sexuality & hiv/aids

Discussion on Section 377 of Bangladesh Penal Code at JPGSPH

The Centre organized a meeting among relevant stakeholders on Section 377 of the Bangladesh Penal Code and other relevant issues regarding the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTI) community in Bangladesh. The discussion was held on July 2, 2009 at the School's Conference room. Dr. Faustina Pereira, Director, Human Rights and Legal Services, BRAC, served as the moderator. The discussion touched upon several subjects and strategized on the current and future agenda for the LGBTI community. Concerned participants from Bandhu, BOB, ICDDR, BRAC Legal Services, BRAC Pathways, JPGSPH, and individual activists attended the discussion.

Meeting on Concept Note of the South Asia Human Rights Commission of Marginalized Sexualities and Genders (SAHRCMSG) at JPGSPH

The School provided a space for Boys of Bangladesh (BOB) to conduct their meeting on the concept note of the proposed South Asia Human Rights Commission of Marginalized Sexualities and Genders on July 29, 2009 in the Conference room. Mr. Tinku Ali, an activist, moderated the discussion while Shakhawat Rajeeb Hossain, BOB, took notes. The meeting was attended by concerned stakeholders from the LGBTI

community. Dr, Nasima Selim, Lecturer at JPGSPH, and Ms. Tisa Muhaddes, who handles Communication at JPGSPH, attended the meeting on behalf of the School. All participants gave their perspectives on ways to make the proposed human rights commission relevant to the LGBTI community in Bangladesh.

Health and development seminar series

Seminar on Private-Public Partnerships in Bangladesh

Dr. Akhter Hossain Miasee, Director Training, NIPORT presented a seminar on "Public Private Partnership" for the MPH Students on July 23, 2009. The guest speaker talked about public-private partnership existing in Bangladesh. He also gave examples of the phenomenon.

Seminar on Developing Leadership Qualities

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, gave a detailed discussion on leadership qualities - its variations and how to develop the leadership skills. The seminar took place on July 26, 2009.

Seminar on Applying Need Based Resource Allocation in Health Sectors of Bangladesh"

Zahidul Quayyum, Research Fellow, University of Aberdeen, Scotland conducted a seminar on "Applying Need Based Resource Allocation in Health Sectors of Bangladesh" on July 29, 2009. The speaker explained how to allocate resources in the health sectors in Bangladesh.

FACULTY NEWS

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Discussion on the Legal Framework Utilized in India to Decriminalize Homosexuality at Bandhu

On July 7, 2009, Bandhu Social Welfare Society organized a discussion on the legal process used in India that successfully decriminalized homosexuality. Ms. Madhu Mehra, Partners for Law and Development, the organization that advocated on behalf of India's LGBTI community provided a detail account of all the legal loopholes, challenges, barriers, and triumphs that they encountered. In addition, opening remarks were given by Mr. Shale Ahmed, Executive Director of Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS), and Advocate Arefujjaman, Senior Legal Officer at BSWS, presented a short history of their organization. Finally, Barrister Sara Hossain concluded the discussion by realistically explaining the current situation of the LGBTI community in Bangladesh. The discussion was attended by noted activists and concerned stakeholders from and beyond the LGBTI community. Ms. Tisa Muhaddes, who handles Communication at JPGSPH, attended the discussion on behalf of the School.

Seventh World Congress of International Health Economics Association in Beijing, China

The Asia Network for capacity building in health system strengthening was formally launched in July 15, 2009 during the 7th World Congress of International Health Economics Association in Beijing, China. The network is composed of institution members of which James P Grant School of Public Health is one of them. Dr Farah Mahjabeen Ahmed, Coordinator of Continuing Education Programme (CEP), represented JPGSPH at Beijing. The network is committed to work in partnership and develop customized training programme and evidence based cases for learning and help to improve the institutional capacity of the member institutes.

GFATM Workshop on Reducing HIV/AIDS related Stigma and Discrimination Training Manual"

A day long sharing workshop on "Reducing HIV/AIDS related Stigma and Discrimination Training Manual" was held in the conference room at the School on July 30, 2009 to review and finalize the draft training manual. This manual is a first of its kind in Bangladesh to address stigma and discrimination in implementing HIV/AIDS related programme. The workshop was jointly organized by Population Council and JPGSPH. It was chaired by Dr. Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director of JPGSPH.

A total of 41 experts from different government, NGOs and international organizations including NASP, Save the Children-USA, UNICEF, FHI, ICDDR,B, CARE Bangladesh, NIPSOM attended the workshop. The manual is developed for all service providers working in HIV/AIDS to create congenial environment for the people living with HIV and AIDS and other most at risk population.

Teaching abroad/outside department

Dr Nasima Selim presented a paper titled "Ekattorer Debdas (Debdas of 1971): The 'unusual' protest and plight of a living martyr of the Liberation War of Bangladesh" at the International Conference on Genocide,

Truth & Justice held on July 30-31, 2009, organized by the Liberation War Museum, Dhaka.

Student Affairs

BRAC University Electronics and Communication Club (BUECC)-REFLECTION

Every semester BUECC comes up with innovative and refreshing events. The motives behind these events are not only interactions between the members and students but also provide knowledge through a very fun step process. The month of July was no different-we had our regular event "Reflection" but with slightly different touch. There was a warm welcoming session by the president. After this, we welcomed our current faculty Nazmus Saquib, who happens to be the present co-advisor and a member of former Executive body to share his experience with us. It is always pleasant to see one of us reaching such level and leading us youngsters to follow up the path. When the speech was over, the BUECC came up with its as usual session of interaction, but this time the approach was different. Every member (or audience) was paired up to participate a task. The task was to find out 5 points about your partner within 5 minutes. Once they finished, they were asked to present it in front of the audience. The pair that could give out the maximum points was considered the winner. This was indeed a fun moment. Such interaction session was done to give the fresher familiarized with the club, EBs and the senior members. To give more life to the event, a very colorful presentation was shown on BUECC that an active member of the team had made. This reflected entirely his thoughts and zeal about the club that he bears in his mind and helped introducing BUECC to the fresher.

Just when people thought it was all over and got gloomy over that, BUECC surprised them with their next scheme, which was the 'crossword puzzle competition'. As interesting as the name suggests, the activities were equally appealing. This competition tested the participant's knowledge on "how well do you know BUECC" and some general knowledge questions. Amazingly, the winners were off a very odd contrast, one that will be soon leaving the university and the other is just experiencing BRACU. The fresher team had Lubna with Babu, and the senior teams participants were Mehrin and Ehsan. Both team seemed equally happy. Next, our president took up the floor to enlighten the audience with the upcoming events and activities of the club. The end to this action-packed day came with the distribution of prize giving ceremonies among the winners of Interaction and Crossword puzzle competition.

It takes days and nights of efforts to make an event successful. We the members of the club are only happy when we see a glow of satisfaction on our audiences face. With utter proud I can say that BUECC has once again done it. This event was as successful as we had hoped it would reflect to be.

AIIESEC in BRAC University annual recruitment 2009-10

AIIESEC in BRAC University has just completed their annual member recruitment for the term 2009-10. The recruitment forms were given out at the AIIESEC promotion booth at the university cafeteria for one whole week. An overwhelming response was seen among the students to join the BRACU chapter of the world's largest student organization. After screening out around 200 forms some 120 applicants were chosen to participate in the "Team's Day" which is the second phase of the member selection process. A Team's Day is basically meant to test the participants based on the skills and abilities to interact with others, working in a team, time management, crisis management, awareness on society, knowledge on national and international issues etc.

The "Team's Day" of AIIESEC in BRAC University was held on 17th of July at BRAC University Savar TARC campus. The day started at around 9:30 in the morning with the journey to Savar. The chair for AIIESEC in BRACU Team's Day was AIIESEC alumni Jamil Haider, Vice President of AIIESEC Bangladesh for the term 2003-2004, currently working as a Consultant, PR & Communication in BMB Mott MacDonald. Introductory sessions included a brief note from Tonmoy Dutta, President of AIIESEC in BRACU, presentations on AIIESEC and the Team's Day and then the chair was handed over to preside over the rest of the day's sessions. Firstly, the participants were divided into 10 teams on the basis of the colors of the balloon they were handed earlier as they were required to find their team mates having the balloon of same colors. A fun session of ice-breaking followed, where each team had to burst the balloons of other teams. Next, the participants were briefly introduced to the AIIESEC way - the mission, vision, organization values and impact of AIIESEC and organizational cultures of AIIESEC. Next followed were sessions on every team creating a unique culture of their own, solving problems on time management and discussing a situation to solve a crisis. Senior members of AIIESEC in BRACU were ready with evaluation sheets in hand to evaluate every participants based on the competencies they exhibit during the team activities and presentations.

The participant then got the chance to hear from a few of the AIESEC alumni, who successfully completed their AIESEC career from AIESEC in BRAC University. The alumni shared their experience in AIESEC with the participants many of whom are soon to become AIESECers. Tahmid Rahman Safi, an alumni currently working in Grameenphone Ltd as a Strategy & Corporate Officer, pointed out how helpful the Aiesec experience along with the Aiesec brand attached to one's name is.

There were sessions on global issues to make the participants more aware about issues like poverty, conflict, and environment, gender etc. The participants were explained how AIESEC perceives these issues and take actions so as to make a positive impact on the society. The sessions were designed with beautiful presentations and explanations by the chair.

Apart from all the team activities and the sessions, the environment had the AIESEC craze with 'jives' and cheers all through.

The day was concluded with hopes, wishes and thanking notes for everybody, including the organizing committee, alumni, the member committee representatives and all the participants. Most of the participants commented the day to be an amazing and unique learning experience in the new way and also mentioned that they were looking forward to join in.

BUCuC: BRAC University Cultural Club

Fortnight concert with Bangla and Warefaze @BRACU

Students of BRAC University Cultural Club (BUCuC) conducted a concert evening for the AILA victims. Bangla, who also believes in humanity, started their performance with a popular lalon song 'Morile Kandish Na'. In three hours long concert Anushe and her team tried to quench the Lalon thirsty audience to the fullest. Some of the top songs from the event play list are: Tomar Ghore, Namaz Amar, Ami Opar and others. Bangla was ablaze with their musical showdown, reliving Lalon's songs with a modern sound. The crowd went into a complete 'jhoom' with Buno's maestro bass, excited with Jibon's drums, screamed at Kartik's guitar skills and were mesmerized with Anusheh's voice as she hit the most impossible notes at the most exceptional style! The event was an absolute hit, as Bangla set the house on fire wrapping up the show with "Krishno Pokho" on audience request. At the end the audience left the venue not only with the good feeling to be a part of a noble cause but also enjoying such a magnificent performance. Bangla also had same emotions towards it, as they said that they were glad to be associated with such a noble cause, in their ending note.

BRAC University Cultural Club not only involved in humanitarian acts, but also in sheer entertainment. To celebrate the end of the Architecture Week the cultural club in collaboration with the Architecture department organized another concert featuring Warfaze! Warfaze performed twelve most popular ever green and super hit songs. The concert was taken to an all new level with guitar battles of the maestro Kamal and the 'kid' Oni. The crowd was left awestruck provided with a two hours long reason to epitomize Warfaze and their music.

By organizing a band show fortnight, BRAC University Cultural Club has surely set the standards and raised the standard really high for an University Club to be associated in providing great enjoyment, being associated with humanitarian causes and creating responsible, musically apt citizens who are definitely going to prove to be the assets for our country.

PRACTISE SESSION @ BRACU Savar Campus

On the 17th of July Football Club BRAC University had its practice session. The session consisted of strict physical routine work. It stressed on the stamina and the power and coordination development of the players.

LOGO AND TEAM LAUNCHING

On the 30th of July Football Club BRAC University held its new logo launching ceremony. The chief guest was our honorable Pro Vice Chancellor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed. Amidst a lot of expectation the ceremony was held successfully in the presence of faculties and students in the BBS conference room. Another important

objective was fulfilled the launching of the new team. The student affairs director welcomed the new players to the club by handing over the jersey. It was a day of celebration and Football Club BRAC University is really proud of the developments.

BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) Workshop on Microsoft Visual C# 2008 continues

A semester long workshop on Software Development using Microsoft Visual Studio 2008 - C# (.NET 3.5) continues with 6 (six) regular participants. They are Md. Eftakhairul Islam (07310001), Prosenjit Mallick Dany (09110035), Sayma Jasmine (09301001), Mahbub Zaman Ananda (09301004), Tanjina Islam (09301018), and Syed Shaiyan Kamran Waliullah (09301019). Participants hope to be able to showcase their skills in upcoming BASIS SoftExpo 2010 which may be held around January 2010. The workshop is mostly held in UB 1128 besides UB 1124 and UB 1126. BRACU alumnus and a BUCC member since 2005 Md Intekhabul Hafiz (05101021) has been voluntarily conducting the workshop. He is currently studying at IICT, BUET. Other details of this workshop can be found at the mailing list of this workshop, <http://groups.google.com/group/buccworkshop> or [ftp://192.168.0.84/BUCC Events/2009 Summer/C Sharp/](ftp://192.168.0.84/BUCC%20Events/2009%20Summer/C%20Sharp/) or at [http://192.168.0.84/bucc/BUCC Events/2009 Summer/C Sharp/](http://192.168.0.84/bucc/BUCC%20Events/2009%20Summer/C%20Sharp/)

Training session on C Programming Language

The need for a training session on C programming language is felt for programming contest as it has been years since C is not taught in any university course. A 3 (three) hours session on introduction to C Programming Language was held in UB 1128 during 5pm to 9pm on Monday July 27 2009. Md. Omar Faruqe and Annajiat Alim Rasel conducted the session. Both are faculty members of School for Engineering and Computer Science, SECS (former CSE Department). About 10 (ten) students attended the session. They were Sheikh Korban Ali (06310041), Md. Jonayet Hossain (08310013), Kazi Md Razin (08310017), Md. Mahmudul Hasan Oyon (08310022), Mir Sazzadur Rahman (08301008), Emonul Hassan Emon (09310052), Radin Ahmed (09301010), S. Mahbub (09301004), Amir Kumar Dey (09101016) and Md. Naimul Hoque (09310047).

Open Discussion on Software Freedom Day (SFD) 2009

An Open discussion session "How we should observe the day" took place on Sunday, July 26th in UB 1127 Linux Lab. BUCC aims to observe the Software Freedom Day (SFD) 2009 at BRAC University on or after Saturday 19th September 2009. It will be a big event and we wish to participate in the name "SFD 2009 Software Freedom Fighters". Md. Eftakhairul Islam (07310001) coordinated the discussion on some plans, ideas and volunteers. Md. Sabbir Ahmed (Alumnus), Md. Mohibuzzaman Zico (04101013), Md Zamil Salek Khan (08301011), E. M. Yeaseenur Rahman Tahin (07110050) and Annajiat Alim Rasel, Faculty, School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) participated in the discussion. Team's registration with global SFD observers is complete. A wiki page created for the event is available at <http://softwarefreedomday.org/teams/buccsff>

Participation in AUST IUPC 2009

4 (four) teams from BUCC participated in the Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology Inter University Programming Contest 2009 (AUST IUPC 2009). We have sent 6 teams to AUST for registration on 12th July 2009, Sunday. On 16th July 2009, Thursday, AUST accepted 4 teams and dropped 2 pending teams due to shortage of space. There were total 81 teams in the contest with 68 ranks. On 22nd July 2009, Wednesday, Contest Briefing 1 and student problem solving class was held. On 23rd July 2009, Thursday, a short Contest Briefing was given and they went for Kit Collection and Mock Contest held at AUST. On 24th July 2009, Friday, participants were present in AUST during 8am to 9pm attending actual contest and other events. Md. Omar Faruqe and Annajiat Alim Rasel accompanied the teams as their coaches. Both are faculty members of School for Engineering and Computer Science, SECS (former CSE Department). Participating teams were (1) BRACU Nazguls consisting of Raihan Ahmed [07110073], K. M Tasbeer Ahsan [07101003], and E. M. Yeaseenur Rahman Tahin [07110050] obtained 57th rank, (2) BRACU Fresh Blood consisting of S. Mahbub Uz Zaman [09301004], Md. Sazzad Ul Kabir [09310003], and Radin Ahmed Ehsan [09301010] obtained 63rd rank, (3) BRACU Hello World! consisting of Imran Kader Chowdhury [08101008], Md. Shaon Imran [08101025], and Shammur Absar Chowdhury [07110071] obtained 67th rank, and (4) BRACU Broodz consisting of Syed Sabbir Ahmed [08101018], Sadat Sakif Ahmed [09301005], and Minhaz Morshed Alam [09310023] obtained 68th rank. First 3 (three) teams solved 1 (one) problem.

Team Selection Contest for AUST IUPC 2009

The selection contest was held on Saturday, July 11th, 2009 from 3pm to 8pm to find their relative ranking among 6 teams, best 4 of which were allowed to participate in AUST IUPC 2009. According to their ranks, teams were (1) BRACU Zwitterion [Md. Eftakhirul Islam (07310001), Raihan Ahmed (07110073)], (2) BRACU Imran Square [Md. Shaon Imran (08101025), Imran Kader Chowdhury(08101008)], (3) BRACU Pirates [Syed Sabbir Ahmed (08101018), S. Mahbub Uz Zaman Ananda (09301004)], (4) BRACU Hopefuls [Sadat Sakif Ahmed (09301005), Md. Sazzad Ul Kabir (09310003), Radin Ahmed Ehsan (09301010)] and (5) BRACU Meniscus [Kazi Muhammad Razin, Md. Mahmudul Hasan Oyon (08310022)]. Among given 10 (ten) problems, they solved (in order of their ranks) 5, 4, 3, 3, and 2 problems. The contest was held in UB 1124.

RS Update

Cultural Program

Three cultural programs- one on the 7th of July, 2009 ,the second one on the 14th and the third one on the 28th July, were organized by the brilliant boarders of three dorms, Roshidoy, Dhanshiri and Chhayaneer respectively. The programs were held at Anandapur. The students of those dorms performed dance, songs, drama, fashion show, etc. The rest of the students, teachers, staff of RS, and the participants of TARC were also present as audience and enjoyed the cultural programs.

Sports

Cricket (Boys)

On 10th July, 2009 the Inter dorm Cricket final match was held. The match was played between Dhanshiri and Chhayaneer. Dhanshiri won by 34 runs.

Cricket (Girls)

On 31st July, 2009 the Inter dorm girls' Cricket final match was held. The match was played between Maloncho and Lokmukhi. Lokmukhi won by 10 runs.

Handball

Inter dorm girls' handball final match was held on 8th July, 2009. In the match, Maloncho won by 8-0 goals beating Roshmidoy dorm.

Football

On 8th July, 2009 inter dorm final football match was held between Dhanshiri and Chhayaneer where Chhayaneer won by 3-0 goal outplaying Krishnochura dorm.

Volleyball

On 18th July the inter Dorm volleyball final match was held between Chhayaneer VS Dhanshiri and Chhayaneer won by 2-1 set defeating Dhanshiri Dorm.

2nd CfL Weekend

On July 18, 2009, the second CfL weekend activities were held. The CfL faculties led the co-curricular activities for the students at the Savar Residential Campus. The activities included table lamp painting, T-shirt painting, jewelry box making, Fruits & Vegetable Carving, creative writing, quiz, debate, etc. Beside their academic courses students actively took part in these co-curricular activities. In addition to that CfL has also offered Chinese Language course and Leadership Building course in this semester.

Seminar on Poverty & Corruption

A seminar on "Poverty & Corruption" was held on 9th July (Thursday) at BRAC University, Savar Campus. Mr. Farid Ahmed, Associate Professor and the Chairperson, Department of Philosophy, Jahangirnagar University was the speaker on that day. He discussed about the causes and forms of poverty and corruption. After his discussion he conducted a debate on whether poverty causes corruption or corruption is caused by poverty which all the students enthusiastically participated in.

Chess Competition

The chess competition among all eight dorms of RS Semester was held in BU Campus Savar. Dhanshiri retained the championship and Chhayaneer became runner up.

Social-Lab Exercises

The second and third phase of Social-Lab of the Residential Semester were conducted on July 11th, 25th. In the second phase 61 and in the third phase 59 students took part in this unique exercise. The students performed the duties of the TARC officials and the staff starting from the Campus Super down to cleaners and laundry persons. The exercise created a lot of enthusiasm among the students and was conducted successfully.

Students at CRP & National Memorial

The Department of ENH 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 11th July and 25th July, 2009. A group of students participated in the whole day program at these two places.

Ms. Valerie A Taylor, Founder & Coordinator, CRP and the staff authorities of CRP welcomed the students & faculty members of BRAC University. They organized an orientation program and screened a documentary film on CRP's activities. Divided in three groups, the students became acquainted with CRP's facilities and services for disabled people in Bangladesh and came to know about CRP's contribution to the physically challenged people in Bangladesh.

On the same day, students went to the National Memorial, Savar. Students paid their homage to our martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the independence of Bangladesh.

Museum Visit by the students of Bangladesh Studies

As part of their academic activities a group of students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) went to visit Liberation War Museum and National Museum of Bangladesh on July 11th and 25th July, 2009. Students were divided into two groups and both groups visited the Lalbag Fort and museums. Department of ESS organized the museum visit to enlighten BRACU students with the history and culture of Bangladesh. The authority of Liberation War Museum played a documentary film show and a quiz competition on Liberation War for the students.