

2006/december

ATM Installed

BRAC Bank has installed an ATM at BRACU Main Campus, Mohakhali. The ATM is operating since December 30, 2006.

Vice Chancellor Receives the Prestigious Bangla Academy Fellowship

Bangla Academy conferred its prestigious Fellowship to Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BRACU, for his contributions in Science & Technology. This was announced in Academy's 29th Annual General meeting held on December 29, 2006. The others who received the fellowship are Professor T A Chowdhury, Professor Qazi Abul Fattah and Mr. Qazi Azhar Ali. Mr. Moinul Hasan, Acting Director, Bangla Academy coordinated the program while eminent poet Asad Chowdhury presided.

Seminar on "Development of Teaching Practices"

Professor Zia Hasan, Vice President and Tenured Professor at Claflin University, South Carolina introduced two concepts to the Chairperson and senior faculty: "The Teaching Portfolio: from Philosophy to Development" and "Research and Scholarship in Teaching and Learning" on December 28, 2006. Professor Hasan discussed how at Claflin an annual mandatory "Performance Portfolio" facilitates the faculty evaluation process to the satisfaction of all. Professor Hasan shared his experience of the teacher as a "developing individual" supported by the university with the Chairpersons and senior teachers of BRACU.

Admission Test MDS, Spring 2007

Admission Test for MDS Program was held on December 22, 2006. The result of the written test was announced on December 24, 2006.

Final Exams, Fall 2006

The classes of Fall Semester 2006 ended on December 18, 2006. Final Exams of Fall 2006 started on December 19, 2006 and finished on December 28, 2006.

CSE Seminar

CSE Department organized a seminar on "From Alexander Graham Bell to Jawed Karim - An Ongoing Revolution" on December 18, 2006. Dr. Mushfiqur Rahman, Head, Strategic Network Resources Division, Telstra, Australia, was the keynote speaker. Faculty members and students from CSE Department attended the event.

International Human Rights Day

10th December was International Human Rights Day. To observe the day, the School of Law (SoL), BRACU organised a lecture program entitled 'Civil and Political Rights Today' on December 10, 2006. Mr. Nurul Kabir, Editor, the Daily New Age was the keynote speaker. This was followed by an open discussion. The seminar was presided over by Dr. Shahdeen Malik, Director, SoL. Mr K Shamsuddin Mahmood, Head, Undergraduate Program, faculty members and students of Sol attended the program. Mr. Nurul Kabir talked about the emergence of the concept of civil and political rights, their importance and his own experiences in dealing with curtailment of these rights.

Seminar on Study in Germany and Learning German Language

A seminar on study in Germany and Learning German Language was held at BRACU cafeteria on December 6, 2006. Ms Shamsun Nahar Rahman, Sr. Relationship Management Officer, BRCAU welcomed the team from the German Cultural Center. Ms. Malhilde Batz, Person In Charge, DAAD (Study and Research in Germany) spoke briefly on the objective, purpose and procedure for Study and Research in Germany. Mr. Sarfuddin Ahmed, Language Teacher at German Cultural Center, Ms Astrid Matron, Intern and Gregor Schmiege, Intern, also spoke on the different aspects of their German Language Learning program at the German Cultural center.

ARC, Update

Chairperson attended meeting in Geneva

Professor Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson, Department of Architecture (ARC) attended a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland on December 21-22, 2006 as a part of the "Thinking Group" for the establishment of a School of Architecture and Human Settlements at the Aga Khan University in Karachi. The group will help conceptualize the School and provide guidelines for its curriculum and advice regarding student intakes, faculty recruitment etc. and provide a general focus for the courses of study. The group is chaired by Professor Peter Rowe of the Harvard Graduate School of Design and Education Program Director Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

Faculty as Technical Team member

Dr. Q. M. Mahtab Uz Zaman, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture has been selected as one of the technical team members for assessment of detailed design criteria and requirement of the proposed multi-storied mixed-use and corporate building of Bangladesh Scouts in Kakrail.

Exhibition at BRAC Centre

As part of the joint research by the Department of Architecture, BRACU and the Research and Evaluation Division (RED), BRAC, the shelter issues of the participants of the CFPR/TUP (Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction/ Targeting the Ultra Poor) Program of BRAC was reviewed. To share this knowledge gained during the process of ongoing research as part of the conference "What Works for the Poorest: Knowledge, Policies and Practices" an exhibition "A Dynamic Vernacular: Housing of the Ultra Poor" was held from December 3-5, 2006 at BRAC Centre. The research team consisted of Professor Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson, Department of Architecture and Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Lecturer, Department of Architecture and Dr. Imran Matin, Director, RED, BRAC. A Poet, singer and farmer Ajit Ray and Imrul Kayes, student of the Department of Architecture also worked as field assistants. Later this exhibition was re-installed at the Department of Architecture, BRACU from December 13-15, 2006.

Exhibition: Korail

At the end of Design Studio 402, students of Senior II organized an exhibition, "KORAIL" from December 13-15, 2006 at the Department of Architecture, BRACU on their work on low income housing for the Urban Poor. To understand the living pattern of low-income people the 4th year students, Department of Architecture, carried an extensive survey of KORAIL squatter settlement and came up with different design solutions.

Angan Event 43

On December 11, 2006 Angan organized its 43rd event titled "Sustainable High-rise" by Professor Mir Maqsd Ali, PhD, School of Architecture, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, USA. Mr. Ali talked about the issue of making tall buildings sustainable. Starting with a bit of history, he discussed that high-rise buildings should be sustainable in terms of their design, the construction process, their operation and the impact on the community. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, VC, BRACU, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BRCAU, Dr. Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson, Department of Architecture, Dr. Zainab F Ali, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, teachers and students of the Department of Architecture attended the event.

Event 44

On December 18, 2006 Angan organized its 44th event titled "Nationalism, Modernism and Heritage in Muslim Architecture" by Dr. Nasser Rabbat, Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Architecture, Massachusetts

Institute of Technology, USA. Dr. Rabbat is a historian of Islamic architecture and culture who is widely known in professional circles in the US and in the Islamic world. The lecture was all about how tradition, heritage and nationalism are being incorporated in contemporary mosque architecture. The lecture was attended by Professor Modjtaba Sadria, Graduate School of Policy Studies, Chuo University, Tokyo, Shiraz Allibhai, Education Programmes Coordinator, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Geneva, Dr. Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson, Department of Architecture, Dr. Zainab F Ali, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, teachers and students of the Department of Architecture. At the end of the lecture, students and teachers participated in a live discussion session.

ENH, Update

Star Campus edited by students of ENH

Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, was edited by the students of ENG 401 (Editing), Department of English & Humanities (ENH) on December 10, 2006. As guest editors, they planned, designed and edited the entire magazine under the supervision of Star Campus editor Shahnour Wahid. The team included Sanam Amin, Afrina Chowdhury, Farhana Jamil Tinni, and Shayera Moula. Visiting Professor and Course Instructor Dr. Suhail Mohiul Islam, led the project.

Workshop

Dr. Suhail Mohiul Islam, Visiting Professor, conducted a workshop titled "Critical Reading, Writing and Editing: A Rhetorical Approach" on December 10, 2006. The workshop was arranged for teachers of the English Department to discuss teaching methodology. Dr. Islam presented a paper on his current research titled "Autoethnography: A Postcolonial Reassessment" on December 11, 2006. The paper sparked a lively debate among the students and teachers attending the event. Dr. Islam teaches in the English Department at Nazareth College, Rochester, New York. He spent the Fall 2006 semester as a Visiting Professor at BRCAU.

MNS, Update

Biotechnology Workshop

Professor A A Azad, TWAS Research Professor, BRACU and Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Coordinator, Biotechnology Program, Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences (MNS) participated in one day Workshop on Biotechnology jointly organized by Dhaka University and BRACU held at the Centre of Excellence, Dhaka University on December 28, 2006. Professor Azad discussed on the prospects of Biotechnology in Bangladesh and Professor Choudhury presented a paper on National Biotechnology Policy of Bangladesh.

Professor A A Azad visited BRACU

Professor A A Azad, Member of the Advisory Board of ICGEB has been appointed TWAS Research Professor on Biotechnology in BRACU for five years. During this period Professor Azad will make short visits to BRACU every year and deliver lectures, organize seminars and work on collaborative biotechnology projects between BRACU and different international organizations. Professor Azad visited BRACU on December 2-3, 2006 and had discussions with Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BRACU and Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Coordinator, Biotechnology, MNS Department about his future course of activities. VC BRACU agreed in principle to co-sponsor with the University of Dhaka and the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences an International Workshop on Biotechnology to be held in Dhaka on April 6-8 2007. Professor Azad is at present in BRACU for his current assignment, which runs from December 25, 2006-January 07, 2007. He represented BRACU at the Preparatory Workshop on Biotechnology held at the University of Dhaka on December 28, 2006.

Participation in International Seminar

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Coordinator, Biotechnology Program, MNS Department participated in the International Seminar on Intellectual Property and Innovation: Value Creation in the Knowledge Economy, December 11-14, 2006, Islamabad, at the invitation of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences and the Network of Academies of Sciences in the Islamic Countries (NASIC). Professor Choudhury presented a paper on "Intellectual Property Rights and Biotechnology" in the Seminar and chaired a Technical Session.

Astrophysics Seminar

Dr. Dipen Bhattacharya, Associate Research Professor of Astrophysics (Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, University of California, Riverside, USA) made a presentation on "Recent Advances in Astronomy" on December 14, 2006. All faculty members of the Department of MNS and some students participated in the seminar.

Residential Semester Update

Bangladesh Studies Fair

Bangladesh Studies Fair was organized by the Department of ESS. The Fair was inaugurated by the VC Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury at 3 PM on Thursday, 30 November 2006 and continued till afternoon Friday, 1 December 2006. Following events were held: Bangladeshi Food Preparation and Display, Pitha Utsab (Cake Festival), Traditional Musical Instrument Display, Play let on Liberation War and Village Marriage Ceremony, Buffalo- Cart Riding, Folk Art and Crafts Display. Bhawwaiya Songs were rendered by Minstrel from Nilphamari Bhawwaiya Academy on Thursday Night. The Fair had generated lot of enthusiasm among the students.

Sports Competitions

Inter-Dorm Sports Competitions of the RS Fall 2006 started with football competition and ended with athletics on December 12, 2006. The following events were held: Football, Cricket, Volleyball, Table Tennis and Athletics for Boys and Handball, Carom, Athletics for Girls.

Debate Competition

Inter-dorm debate competitions were conducted successfully. Chayaneer became champion and Malancho runner up.

Lecture on Bangla Music

Dr. Mridulkanti Chakraborti, Professor, Music and Theatre, Dhaka University delivered a Lecture on the Evolution of Bangla Music and rendered Bangla songs on December 10, 2006 at Markuli Hall, BRACU Campus, Savar. Students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) took part in Cultural Program after the Lecture.

Concluding Dinner

The Concluding Dinner of the RS Fall, 2006 was held on December 13, 2006. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC was the Chief Guest and distributed the prizes. Chairpersons, Faculty Members and students of RS Fall, 2006 attended the Dinner. Certificates and other prizes were distributed among winners and designated students. Chayaneer was adjudged as the overall Best Dorm and was awarded the Inter-Dorm Championship Trophy.

El-Pro Co-Curricular Activities

English Language Program (El-Pro) had organized weekend programs at BRACU Campus, Savar on December 7, 2006. Students staged a Drama and a Fashion Show. The programs generated tremendous enthusiasm among the students.

CRBLP, BRACU Publications

CRBLP (Center for Research on Bangla Language Processing) members published 17 papers in 2006 in different international conferences. Most of them are by BRACU students, who have done an incredible job of doing the work during their Summer Internship and in the NLP course project this year. Notably, BRACU Research group has the highest number of papers (11 papers) accepted in the ICCIT 2006. We are also proud to have the first paper from Bangladesh accepted by ICON (ICON 2007), the premier NLP conference in India. Out of the 13 interns, 8 have been able to co-author at least one paper each.

School of Public Health (SPH) update

MPH students' fieldwork

The students are still conducting the fieldwork for their independent study, which is a 12-credit module. Students will submit a report at the end of their dissertation on January 20th 2007.

New Student Recruitment

The new batch of MPH students for the academic year 2007-08 has been recruited. Among a total of 28 students, 13 are female. Also, the group comprises 14 Bangladeshis and 14 international students from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Malawi, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Tanzania, Uganda, and the United States. Furthermore, there are 9 medical doctors among these students including a dental surgeon while the rest are from other health related disciplines including nursing and paramedical professions.

Bangladesh Health Watch 1st Report launch

Bangladesh Health Watch formally launched their first report 'The State of Health in Bangladesh 2006 - Challenges of Achieving Equity in Health' on December 26, 2006 at the BRAC Centre. The launching was organized by the James P Grant School of Public Health, BRACU. Mr. Fazle Hasan Abed, Founder and Chairperson, BRAC chaired the ceremony. Dr. Abbas Bhuiya, Head, Poverty and Health, ICDDR, B and Convener of the Bangladesh Health Watch working group gave the welcome address. Dr. Rounaq Jahan, Member, Board of Directors, Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB) and Convener of the Advisory Board Health Watch group, presented a short summary of the key findings of the report and emphasized the importance of having civil society monitoring health. Professor Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate and Chief Guest, commended the Health Watch initiative. He emphasized that increased slogan of privatization cannot provide health services to all citizens and basic public sector services are essential to provide health security. He also emphasized the importance of democracy and the right to information and strengthening of citizen's voices, which create pressure for better health services for all citizens. Ms. Adrienne Germain, President of the International Women's Health Coalition and Dr. George Soros, Chairman of Open Society Institute, were both special guests at this occasion. Mr. Abed, Founder and Chairperson of BRAC, concluded the ceremony, emphasizing the role of proper management in solving the nation's health problems.

Faculty News

Dr. Demissie Habte, International Director, attended a workshop titled "Institutional Innovations in Global Health: New Ways for Linking Knowledge with Action to Improve Health in Developing Countries" at Boston, USA organized by Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Harvard School of Public Health, and Boston University School of Public Health. It was a one -day workshop held on November 27, 2006.

Dr. Hilary Standing, Fellow, Knowledge, Technology and Society Team, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK, will be based at the School from December 22, 2006 until March 01, 2007 as Visiting Professor.

Dr Mizanur Rashid Shuvra, Research Associate, attended a course in Colombo, Sri Lanka organized by the Global Equity Gauge Alliance and participated by India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Peru, Columbia, Ecuador, Brazil, Guatemala, USA, Nairobi, S. Africa, Kenya and Burkina Faso. This course on Health Equity and Health System Management was a certificate course held on December 04-10, 2006.

BRACU-IED Conference

The first National ECD Conference of the Bangladesh ECD Network was organised and hosted by the ECD Resource Centre at BRACU Institute of Educational Development (IED) on December 10, 2006 at the Spectra Centre in Gulshan. The ECD Resource Centre served as the secretariat of the network. The first such conference in Bangladesh was attended by about 400 participants representing some 200 member organisations of the ECD Network, international and national organizations, and ECD specialists. Ms Yasmeen Murshed, Member of the Advisory Council of the Bangladesh Government was the chief guest and Mr. Abdul Haque, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs was the Special Guest. Ms. Caroline Arnold, Co-Director of Education at the Aga Khan Foundation in Geneva and a renowned early childhood development expert was the keynote speaker. The theme of the conference was "Building Partnerships for

Early Childhood Development."

CGS Launches Report

Centre for Governance Studies (CGS), BRACU has launched its inaugural publication "The State of Governance in Bangladesh 2006: Knowledge, Perceptions, Reality" on 14th December 2006 at Hotel Golden Deer, Dhaka. Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud was the Guest of Honor and Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University presided over the launching ceremony. Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Director, Centre for Governance Studies welcomed the guests. Dr. Naomi Hossain of BRAC Research & Evaluation Division, who was the research team leader, made the keynote presentation on the report followed by discussions from Mr. M Hafizuddin Khan, Mr. Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury, Mr. ASM Shahjahan, Professor Dilara Chowdhury, Advocate Sara Hossain, Mr. Abul Hasnat Abdullah. Academicians, civil society members, NGOs, think tanks and donors attended the ceremony.

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