

2007/december

BRACU Celebrates its 3rd Convocation

In a joyful ceremony BRACU celebrated its 3rd Convocation on the 30th December 2007 at the Bangladesh China Friendship Convention Centre. Prof. Dr. Iajuddin, Chancellor BRACU conferred degrees to 321 undergraduate and graduate level candidates.

Farzana Ashraf, Valedictorian from the BRAC Business School received the Chancellor's Gold Medal for obtaining the highest cgpa of 3.96 amongst all the undergraduate student. Farzana is also a BRAC-Ford Scholarship recipient. Abebual Zerihun, BRAC School of Public Health from Ethiopia received the Chancellor's Gold Medal from the graduate program for obtaining the highest cgpa of 3.96.

The Convocation Speaker this year was Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue. The program started with the Pro Vice Chancellor's welcome address followed by Mr. Abed, President of the Governing Board, Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Farzana Ashraf, Valedictorian and Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor. Prof. After the exchanges of crests by Bangabhaban and BRACU, Prof. Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed, Chancellor BRACU finally delivered his speech.

It was a wonderful way to end the year 2007!

Department of Architecture

Director, PPDM attends International Workshop in Yokohama, Japan

Professor Fuad H Mallick, Director, Post Graduate Programs in Disaster Management attended the Fourth International Workshop on Coastal Disaster Prevention held at Yokohama from 1st till 3rd December, on the invitation of by Port and Airport Research Institute, Japan. He made two presentations, one on Cyclone and Storm Surge Mitigation Measures in Bangladesh and another on Cyclone Sidr.

ARC faculty awarded in IAB competition

Khondaker Hasibul Kabir, Lecturer, Department of Architecture, with three other architects participated in the design competition, "Design of IAB Centre". The team was awarded the third prize among 47 entries. It was an open competition where a number of reputed Bangladeshi architects participated. In the same competition A Q M Abdullah, previously a Lecturer and Emran Hossain previously a Teaching Assistant of the department who are pursuing higher education abroad received honorable mention for their joint entry.

Student visit from AA School London

Twelve students from the Architecture Association School of Architecture (AA School) London of Diploma 7 level came for a 2-week visit to Bangladesh with their tutors Simon Beames and Kenny Fraser. Department of Architecture organized a visit to the Parliament House for them. They also visited the cyclone-affected regions to develop their academic projects. An exhibition of their works was held in the lobby space on 8th floor of CB. The exhibition ended on 12th December with a discussion session between the students of architecture of both school's department about their studio works and experiences.

Faculty leaves for higher education

Iftekhhar Ahmed left for pursuing his PhD in Urban Design at National University of Singapore (NUS). He was awarded a full scholarship by NUS to complete his studies. Iftekhhar completed his Master of Urban Design with distinction from the University of Hong Kong in 2005 while on study leave. He has been working in BRACU since 2003.

BRACU Awarded by Cisco Networking Academy, Asia Pacific

BRACU is proud to announce that Sadia Hamid Kazi, Coordinator of the CCNA program BRACU, is the first in Bangladesh to receive an award for outstanding contribution and dedication to the Networking Academy at the annual Cisco Asia Pacific Academy Council Meeting and Workshop held last December 2007 in Hong Kong. The award was given by Sandy Walsh, Regional Manager, Cisco Networking Academy, Cisco Systems, Asia Pacific. More than 150 CCNA/CCNP instructors from 25 countries participated in this event. BRACU was one of the two local academies from Bangladesh who were invited to this meet. Sadia has been involved

with the program for the last two years and is also a full time faculty of the CSE Department of BRACU. BRACU is one of the first local academies to launch the new CCNA curriculum and also in the process of diversifying its curriculum by offering Fundamentals of Wireless LANs (FWL), another program under the Cisco Networking Academy. Sadia was also the only Bangladeshi to be invited to attend the new curriculum workshop held in Bangkok last June 2007 by the Cisco Networking Academy. After attending the workshop, she organized the retooling session of the workshop for all the other local academies of Bangladesh. BRACU is also proud to host the "United Nations Volunteer" in Bangladesh for up scaling the Academy Initiative in Bangladesh.

Launched in October 1997 with 64 educational institutions in seven states, the Networking Academy has spread to more than 150 countries. Since its inception, over 1.6 Million students have enrolled at more than 10,000 Academies located in high schools, technical schools, colleges, universities, and community-based organizations.

Interested educational institutions are given the designation of Networking Academy at the level of training that they will be providing in the program. There are currently three possible tiers of training. Industry experts at Cisco Systems train the Instructor Trainers at the Cisco Academy Training Centers (CATCs), the CATC Instructors train Regional Academy Instructors and the Regional Academy Instructors train the Local Academy Instructors who then educate students. In Bangladesh, BUET being our regional Academy, we have 11 other Local Academies who help to prepare students for the Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) degrees. BRACU started its Cisco Local Academy in 2003 and has produced 200 CCNA graduates to this date.

The past year has been an exciting time for the Networking Academy with the launch of the much awaited New CCNA Discovery and Exploration curriculum and the celebrations of the 10 year anniversary. The sessions at the conference this year focused on the new Curriculum releases, Instructor resources and quality assurance, as well as providing opportunities for exchange of Academy Council strategy and best practices.

Department of Computer Science & Engineering

Microsoft Career Seminar

A half-day long Microsoft Career Seminar, organized by the Department of Computer Science & Engineering and the Career Services Office, and sponsored by Microsoft Bangladesh was held at the LGED Auditorium on December 13, 2007. The event was entitled "Informational Event on Work and Life at Microsoft" and its aim was to provide first-hand information about opportunities at Microsoft, their recruitment & interview process and life at and around Microsoft, USA.

Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BRACU, the chief guest inaugurated the seminar. This was followed by another introductory delivery made by Mr. Feroz Mahmud, Country Manager, Microsoft Bangladesh. This seminar, the first of its kind, was held in this country by a large and renowned company such as Microsoft, USA. There were around 500 participants from 31 different universities. The seminar covered talks focusing on the topics such as: Different roles at Microsoft; Recruiting process at Microsoft; Benefits of working at Microsoft and Microsoft culture. The seminar concluded with an informative Q & A session. Ample opportunities were provided for networking with the employees of Microsoft as well. In view of the success of the seminar, Dr. Mumit Khan, Associate Professor, Computer Science & Engineering announced that similar events would be organized in the near future.

Students Affairs Office

BRACU Cultural Club

Cultural Competition Students really work hard and they become successful. It was an excellent program and we can find out the The organizing was good. Riad, Ashiq, Ferdous & Amit "talent". Our BRACU is rich in culture and they prove really work hard and they were successful for this within it. It was two days program and the whole program was a very short time. The judgment was excellent. This is divided into some categories held on December 6 and 7, the success of BRACU Cultural Club and they show 2007. In each

category we found the best singer. their brotherhood.

BRACU Computer Club (BUCC) Workshop on Database Management

BUCC Workshops on Database Management with Oracle and Web & Desktop Application development with PHP & MySQL concluded on December 1, Saturday. Thanks to Fazole Munim Sayket and Md. Mahtab Uddin for conducting these workshops. Both of them were professionally experienced in their respective fields and student of CSE department.

Fedora Free Media Program December 2007

On behalf of BUCC, Khandaker Wasim Reza Tonmoy and Annajiat Alim Rasel received Fedora Core 8 x86 Live DVD from Imtiaz Rahi on December 03, '07 as part of Fedora Free Media Program .

Training classes for programming contests

BUCC members attended training classes for programming contests and participated in TopCoder Single Round Module (TC SRM) 380 contests on December 4, 6, 8.

32nd Annual International Collegiate Programming Contest 2007

On December 8, 2007 3 BUCC teams consisting 9 students participated in 32nd Annual International Collegiate Programming Contest 2007 Asia Regional, Dhaka Site held on Saturday, 8 December 2007 at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center (BCFCC) with 87 teams. The mock contest and the actual contest were held on the same day. BUCC team statistics is given below. It may be mentioned that up to 10th position holder solved 2 problems. Further details can be found at <http://icpc.ewubd.edu>

Team Name Members Rank Solved Problems

BRACU Parhelias Annajiat Alim Rasel Khandaker Wasim Reza Tonmoy Md. Intekhabul Hafiz 35 2
BRACU Nazguls K.M Tasbeer Ahsan E.M. Yeaseenur Rahman Tahin Shiblee Imtiaz Hasan 53 1
BRACU War Craft Heroes Biplab Kumar Saha Md. Mahtab Uddin Hasan Al Khaled 55 1

Thanks to Md. Intekhabul Hafiz, related pictures are uploaded at:
http://picasaweb.google.com/mr.intekhab/ICPC2007_EWU_BCFCC

Microsoft's Career Seminar

On December 13 about 40 volunteers from BUCC were proud to have worked for the Microsoft's Career Seminar at BRACU arranged by CSE Department and Career Services Office, BRACU. Volunteers consisted of students from CS, CSE, ECE, and BBA. We were able to manage about 500 people without any major problems. This event served as a very good experience for the students that will help them to arrange or to volunteer in large events in future. Event details can be found at <http://www.bracuniversity.ac.bd/cso/reg/>

Victory day rally

On December 16, 2 BUCC members, Md. Afsarul Amin (07310027) and Md Rokibul Hasan (06210017) participated in the BRACU Victory day rally under Student Affairs on behalf of BUCC.

Help Desk

On December 19 and 24 a daylong BUCC help desk for CSE110: Programming Language I and CSE111: Programming Language II students, was held.

Leave for higher study

On December 30 BUCC Member Fahd Bin Haider has left for higher study at University of Manitoba, Winnipeg. During his study at BRACU, he along with his friends played important roles in many BUCC activities in 2007. Some of those are:

July 1 - 3rd Prize, NSUCC Math Olympiad 2007 from BUCC

July 27 - Participated in World Cyber Games (WCG) Competition from BUCC
August 10 - BRACU Inter-University Programming Contest 2007
October 7 - BUCC Workshop for CSE 101 Students at TARC
October 23 -Residential Semester in slides to Dr. Zafar Iqbal at TARC on behalf of BUCC
He wrote article(s) at Star Campus highlighting BRACU and CSE Department. He was praised by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed,
Pro-VC, BRACU for his active participation in extra-curricular activities at BRACU.
Related Star Campus articles are available at:

http://thedailystar.net/campus/2007/08/04/feature_BRAC.htm

<http://www.thedailystar.net/campus/2007/09/01/newsroom.htm>

BUCC workshops

On December 31 BUCC member Niti Jabin, an attendee of BUCC workshops held in Fall 2007, was interviewed by KKAIROS for the post of "Trainee - Programmer and Web-Site Administration". BUCC assisted in training through holding workshops, in preparing CV and in preparing for the interview.

Announcements Statistics for the Month

Thanks to Naushad UzZaman (CS grad.), Sarwar Alam (CSE grad.), Mohammad Atiqur Rahman (MBA grad.), Fazle Munim Sayket (Student, CS), and Annajiat Alim Rasel (Student, CSE) for following information.

Higher Study Announcements

3rd course of the school of Asian Applied Natural Language Processing for Linguistics Diversity and Language Resource Development (ADD-3)
University of Aberdeen -PhD Research Assistants (3 years) on Ontology Reasoning
New NLP masters degree in Erasmus Mundus Program
University of Rochester seeking graduate students

Job Announcements

KKAIROS -Trainee Programmer and Web-Site Administration
NetEC Group - Project Manager for Longer Term Web Application Development
UN Country Team, Bangladesh - Web Manager under UNDP
UN Country Team, Bangladesh - Database Manager under UNDP

Others Announcements

BUET -National Conference cum Workshop on Materials Science and Technology, December 2-4, 2007
Education World Wide Expo-2008
Fedora Free Media Program, January 2008
WORLDCOMP'08: Computer Science & Computer Engineering Conferences, USA, July 20, 2008

BUCC File Server - New Arrivals at <http://192.168.0.84>

Microsoft Robotics Studio

SQL Server Management Pack for MS System Center Operations Manager 2007
Fedora Core 8 x86 Live
Mandriva 2008 One
Mandriva 2008 Free
Mandriva 2008 Dual
Oracle 11g - All desktop, server and cluster packages for Windows & Linux

BRACU Electronics and Communication Club (BUECC)

Help Desk

Weekly BUECC "F1" help desk for 10 major and 1 elective courses of ECE was held on 6th December (Thursday). 9 senior student members of BUECC willingly gave their time to help the junior students enrolled in the courses mentioned above.

General Body Meeting

BRACU Electronics and Communication Club (BUECC) had its 1st General Body Meeting (GBM) on 6th November, 2007 which started at 5.25 PM in UB104. Co-faculty Advisor Md. Imrul Hossain, President Sunjib Kumer Singha, Vice-President Nazmus Saquib, General Secretary Rumana Rahman and Treasurer Kaiser Hamid from the executive committee of BUECC were present on that meeting. 30 members of the club were present in the meeting. The members were given an opportunity to express their opinion and suggestions about the past and future activities of the club.

Meeting of 9th South-Asian Telecommunications Regulator's Council (SATRC)

Vice-President Nazmus Saquib and member Supriyo Shafkat Ahmed attended the concluding meeting of 9th South-Asian Telecommunications Regulator's Council (SATRC) organized by Asia Pacific Telecommunity and hosted by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC). Bangladesh has been elected the chair of the South Asian Telecommunications Regulator's Council (SATRC) for the next one year term.

AIESEC

UNFPA and AIESEC HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign

AIESEC in BRACU has successfully arranged a HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign in our university. Educational materials, stickers were given out to students, while we also took video interviews of them. The campaign was closed by a presentation by UN officials, followed by a concert by Alternation, Scarecrow and Ocean Fly. UNFPA was kind enough to support us in this event, and we were also helped by students of BUEC.

Exchange Participant Campaign 2007

AIESEC in BRACU has successfully arranged a Exchange Participant Campaign in our university. A total of 24 CVs were collected from students of BRAC Business School, Department of Economics and Social Sciences, and Computer Science and Engineering. This was followed by Information Seminar where the CEO of Cellbazaar.com, Mr. Kamal Quadir. The candidates were then taken to the Student Review Board, and finally seven students were selected. They are Tanveer Reza Rouf (ESS), Sanjida Rashid (BBS), Hafiza Rahman (MBA), Nafiz Imteaz (ESS), Faisal Ahmed (EWU), Syeda Samia Ali (ESS), Ashiqur Rahman (BBS). They will be going to the internship in 2008.

BU National Heritage Forum

Victory Day Celebration

National Heritage Forum arranged a colorful "Victory Day Celebration" on December 16, 2007. About 50 students from different clubs and forums participated at Victory Day to the National Memorial at Savar. The rally to the National Memorial generated a lot of enthusiasm and fervor among the students and was conducted successfully.

BIZ BEE

Seminar on "CSR"

BIZ BEE hosted a seminar on "CSR" on Thursday, December 6, 2007 conducted by Ms. Moutushi Kabir, the Deputy General Manager (DGM), Social Communication, Corporate Social Responsibility of Grameen Phone. She started the seminar with a brief background on her education and working experience. Ms. Kabir tried to share her versatile and valuable knowledge about the different definitions and key factors of CSR. She talked about the general & critical aspects of CSR of organizations all over the world and put special emphasis on the importance of CSR from an organization's point of view. Her interesting slides demonstrated some questionable marketing activities of a few top and globally renowned companies and how people did not appreciate these activities and accused these companies as being socially irresponsible.

The honorable Pro-VC Dr. Salahuddin Ahmed as well as a number of faculty members and students also attended the seminar and directly participated in the discussion, as Ms. Kabir facilitated a very homely and interactive atmosphere with her wonderful storytelling skills and clear but precise views. The participants thanked Ms. Kabir for sharing her knowledge and providing a clearer picture of CSR in this highly successful event.

Football Club

Victory Day Football Match at TARC -Savar

Football Club of BRACU organized a Friendly Football match between BRACU team and TARC students. BRACU team had beaten the TARC Students' team by 11-1 goal. The goal was to organize the match is to celebrate the Victory Day with TARC students and create enthusiasm about football within them.

Department of Economics and Social Sciences

Museum Visit by the Students of Bangladesh Studies

Students of Bangladesh studies (DEV 101) visited Liberation War Museum and Bangladesh National Museum on December 1, 2007. The Liberation War Museum authority screened a documentary on the history of Bangladesh and organized a quiz competition for all visiting BRACU students. Mr. Mofidul Huq, a trustee of Liberation War Museum gave away prizes to six students of BRACU. Dr. Nurul Huda Abul Monsur, Ms. Moshahida Sultana, Mr. Kamrul Hasan, course instructors of Bangladesh Studies accompanied the students.

Students of Bangladesh Studies performed at Liberation War Museum

In line with the spirit of Liberation war, a group of 11 students of BRACU performed at the Victory Day Program, organized by Liberation War Museum. Students recited poems, rendered songs focusing on liberation war and the freedom struggles of Bangladeshi people. Their performance wrapped up the second day of seven daylong programs. The BRACU team was led by Kamrul Hasan, Lecturer, ESS. Dr. Anwarul Haque, Chairperson, ESS, Mrs. Anwarul Haque, Dr. Nurul Huda Abul Monsur were also present there.

Faculty Participation in Seminar

Dr. Manjur Karim, Associate Professor, ESS gave lecture in a seminar on "How Banks and Funds Effect Development: A Discussion on Neo-Liberalism" on December 06, 2007. The seminar was organized by 'VOICE', a Non Government Organization of Bangladesh. He gave another lecture on "Linking IFI and Investment to Climate Change" in a citizen meeting on December 13, 2007, organized by the same organization.

Farewell to Faculty Members

The Department of ESS gave farewell to Ms. Shaila Parveen, Lecturer, ESS and Mr. Khondaker Ekramul Haque, visiting Associate Professor of the department. Ms. Parveen went on study leave to pursue her Master in Arts (MA) in Economics at Southern Illinois University, USA. Mr. Haque left for USA after finishing his one year visiting professorship in the department of ESS. The Chairperson of ESS thanked the faculty members for their valuable contribution to the department.

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS)

New Year's greetings to all at BRACU from everyone at IGS!

Manzoor Hasan presented a paper, Public Sector Corruption in Bangladesh: Political & Bureaucratic, at the 'Victory Day Commemorative Seminar' organized by the Bangladesh International Institute for Strategic Studies (BISS). The Institute co-hosted with the South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal & Human Rights Studies, the launch of Dr Sharif Bhuiyan's first book, National Law in WTO Law: Effectiveness and Good Governance in the World Trading System published by Cambridge University Press. Dr Bhuiyan is a faculty of IGS, teaching 'Laws of International Governance & Cooperation' on the Masters program.

The University held its 3rd Convocation this month and a Masters degree were conferred upon four students from the 2006/07 program. The second semester of the Masters program started on 9th December in

BCDM, Rajendrapur. Dr Rizwan Khair attended a workshop, 'Institutional Development Plan of BPATC', on 17th December at the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) organized by the UNDP & BPATC.

Dr Shahnaz Karim met Development Alternatives, INC. (DAI) to discuss possible collaboration with IGS as part of a four year anti-corruption project undertaken by them. This would entail the facilitation of short-term training programs for employees of public institutions through IGS.

BRAC School of Public Health (BSPH)

3rd Graduates' Forum

The Third Graduates' Forum of the James P Grant School of Public Health was held at ICDDR,B on December 27. The batch consists of 26 students from Afghanistan, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Singapore, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, USA, and Bangladesh, all of whom successfully completed their degree in Masters in Public Health. Dr. AMR

Chowdhury, Dean, School of Public Health, delivered the welcome address and Pro-Vice Chancellor of BRACU Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed chaired the forum. Professor Richard Cash of Harvard University delivered the keynote address titled "In the Eye of the Storm: Contributions of Bangladesh to the Reduced Public Health Impact of Natural Disasters." Dr. Abbas Bhuiyan also spoke on behalf of ICDDR,B.

Abebul Zerihun of Ethiopia won the 'FH Abed Award for Best Overall Performance to an International Student' while the 'Allan Rosenfield Award for Best Overall Performance to a National Student' went to Tarique Md Nurul Huda. Om Prasad Gautam from Nepal won the 'WB Greenough III award for the Best Dissertation.' Fazle Hasan Abed distributed the prizes among the winners. Five students were selected to present their dissertations on treatment compliance of tuberculosis, physical activity and obesity, community knowledge of malaria, perception of importance of illness by the elderly and care-seeking behavior for menstrual regulation services.

BRACU Convocation

The University's 3rd Convocation took place on 30 December, 2007 at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre, presided over by Chancellor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed. Mr Ayub Quadri, Adviser, Ministry of Education attended the function as the Special Guest. All students of the School received their diploma at this ceremony. Abebul Zerihun of Ethiopia from the School received the President's Award for his outstanding academic performance.

Seminar

Seminar on cancer prevention and control by Dr. M.A. Hannan, Deputy Director, Knowledge Creation Program, Research Portfolio, Canadian Institutes of Health, Research, Ottawa, Canada and Visiting Professor, University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, U.K. on Sunday, December 9, 2007. Sasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR,B.

SPH Featured in WHO Bulletin

The widely circulated Bulletin of the World Health Organization published a feature on James P Grant School of Public Health in the December 2007 issue. The article states that the School "is one of a new breed of public health institutions based in a developing country. It offers courses relevant to Bangladesh as well as international public health issues, and attracts students from both developing and developed countries."

Faculty News

Dr. Sabina Faiz Rashid, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Realizing Rights Consortium in Bangladesh attended mid term review meeting at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK on December 4, 2007.

Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) Department

First International Conference on Science Education, Bangkok

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the Council Meeting and First International Conference on Science Education organized jointly by the Inter Academy Panel on International Issues (IAP), Federation of Asian Science Academies and Societies (FASAS), Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia (AASA) and the Science Society of Thailand. The event was held at the Suffield Central Plaza, Bangkok, from 27-29 November, 2007. It was participated by a large number of scientists and researchers from the USA, Canada, UK, Australia and the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific. The delegates dealt at length on the status of science education in the countries of Asia and the Pacific and the role of science academies in the promotion of science education.

Participation in SAARC Exchange Program

Ms. Moushumi Zahur of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences visited Delhi, India from December 2 to 9, 2007 under SAARC Exchange Program. The Government of Peoples' Republic of India organized a visit to the Jamia Milia Islamia University and Hindu College of Delhi. She also participated in a program organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) of India. Under the SAARC Exchange Program she also visited Agra and some other historically important places of Delhi.

National Conference cum Workshop on Materials Science and technology

The Department of Physics of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka organized the above-mentioned Conference cum Workshop from December 2-4, 2007 on the occasion of celebrating 60 years of engineering education in Bangladesh and the Silver Jubilee of the post graduate program of the Department. Prof. A.A.Z. Ahmad chaired a special session on December 4, 2007. Two papers were presented. The first paper entitled "Electrical Independence Measurement for Probing the Human Body -Techniques & Potentials" was presented by Professor K.Siddique-e-Rabbani, Professor of Physics, University of Dhaka.

Dr. S.I. Bhuiyan, Chairman, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission presented the second paper titled "Nuclear Power-an Inevitable Option for Bangladesh". Mr. A.K.M. Shafiqullah, Mr. Anisur Rahman Molla and Mr. Mahabobe Shobahani, lecturers of the MNS Department participated in the National Conference cum Workshop on Materials Science and Technology.

Participation in APPTC-2007 Conference

Professor Mofiz Uddin Ahmed of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences participated in the 8th Asia Pacific Plasma Theory Conference (APPTC-2007), from 11-14 December, 2007 held at the Institute for Plasma Research, Bhat, Gandhinagar, India. The Institute for Plasma Research (IPR) - the organizer of the Conference - is an autonomous body of the Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India dedicated to fundamental and applied research in the field of plasma physics and thermonuclear fusion and development of technologies relevant to these fields. With over 300 scientists and engineers, IPR has, over the years, built India's first indigenous Tokamak type fusion reactor called "ADITYA" and is currently pursuing superconducting steady state Tokamak SST-1. Around thirty-seven scientists from Australia, Bangladesh, France, India, Japan and Korea participated in the conference.

Professor Ahmed presented a paper on gravitational waves in astrophysical plasmas. The paper has recently been published in *Physics of Plasmas* 14, 112906 (2007). The three-day conference included a visit to IPR labs, a cultural program and local sightseeing. In the concluding session there was a fruitful discussion on how to transfer IPR experience on plasma and fusion research to the researchers working in these fields in the developing countries of the region. It was concluded that a small scale "Glow Discharge Plasma Device" can easily be developed in which IPR may support with developed technologies and scientific experience. Professor Ahmed was provided with the design of the abovementioned plasma research device.

BRACU will represent GDLN South Asia in a Steering committee

On 19th December 2008 through a Video Conference among the South Asian member country of Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) of the World Bank, Mr. Ali Salman GDLN Coordinator and BBA Program Coordinator of BRACU was unanimously nominated to represent GDLN South Asia in the steering committee formed by the World Bank to decide the future of GDLN. The steering committee is being formed with 7 members, 1 member from the World Bank and 6 members from the 6 Region of the World Bank. This steering committee will put up a proposal to the World Bank by June 2008 about the strategy and steps that

has to be taken to form a global alliance for GDLN.

Residential Semester Savar

Museum visit

The students of Residential Semester Fall 2007 visited the National Museum and Muktijoddha Museum on 1.12.2007. The students were divided into 2 groups for in-depth observation of the places. The students were guided by the Teachers and House Tutors. Based on the observations, the students gave a presentation and submitted their reports to the concerned Faculty.

Athletics

The inter-dorm Athletics competition was held among the girls and boys dorms on December 2 & 3, 2007. Surjorosmi (Girls' dorm) became the champion and the Maloncho (Boys' dorm) was the runner up. On 4.12.07, the inter Dorm Chesses competition was held among the girls and boys Dorms, Krisnochora (Boys' dorm) became champion and the Surjorosmi (Girls' dorm) became runner-up.

El-Pro Fair

This semester El-Pro offered a good number of activities.. The activities included pottery designing, glass painting, photo-frame designing, cooking, ceramic painting, candle holder designing, ethnic Indian doll making, jewelry box making, fruit and vegetables curving and Spanish language. Students beside their academic courses actively took part in these co-curricular activities. To encourage the students, a fair Shrishti Shukher Ullashe was organized by EL-Pro on 8.12.07. Students displayed the products they made during the semester. Besides, there was painting competition in which students of Charukala Institute of Dhaka University along with BU students participated. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro VC of BRACU inaugurated the fair. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury distributed prizes amongst the winners of the art competition. Fazle Hasan Abed, President, Governing body of BRACU paid a short visit to the fair. There was also a cultural segment in the fair. All the parents of the RS students were invited. Among other guests, Mr. Mahmud Hasan, Registrar, Mrs. Shreyasee Sarma Pati, Dy. Register, Prof. Anwarul Haque, Chairman, ESS, Mrs. Sayeda Sarwat Abed, Director El-Pro.

Pro, Faculties of different departments of BRACU, Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Director and Head of Financial Institutions of Citibank N.A, Mr. Habibur Rahman, Campus Super of RS, and some other BRAC personnel were present in the fair. Mr. Hamiduzzan, one of renowned Artist and Mr. Shishir Battachariya, the cartoonist were also present and acted as the judges for evaluating the painting. The best 3 artists were awarded an amount of Tk.40,000. It was decided that the money which will be collected through selling the art works will be donated to the welfare of the Sidr-affected people.

Victory Day Observation

The victory day was observed with various events where students and BRACU & TARC staff participated. The day started with hoisting the national flag at 08:45 AM. Then the sports competition started and continued up to Lunch. After the lunch the cultural functions started at 3:00 pm and finished followed by an improved dinner. Concluding Session Dinner of RS Fall 2007

The concluding session of RS Fall 2007 was held at 7:30 PM on 17.12.2007 at the Markuli Hall. Prof. Nazrul Islam, Chairman, University Grants Commission, was the chief guest. The VC, Pro VC, Registrar, Director, El-pro, Deans and Chairs of the concerned Departments were present in the session. The session was followed by a dinner. The students were awarded with the VC's certificates and prizes for different sports competitions. The prizes were distributed by the chief guest and the VC. Ten students were awarded the "Top ten" and 59 students awarded VC certificates for their excellent performance in academic and social activities during the semester. The Sujaroshmi (Girls' dorm) won the trophy as the best dorm among six dormitories where Maloncho was the runner-up.

Miscellaneous

This is the first time that the final examinations of EL-Pro were held at Savar on 19.12.07. On the same day the residential semester of Fall 2007 has successfully completed its activities at Savar.

Department of English & Humanities

Talk on Modernism by Dr. Syed Manzoorul Islam

Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam delivered a lecture on the topic "Traveling Ideas: Modernism Revisited" on Monday, 17th December 2007 at 4:30 pm in UB 104. Along with the students of ENH BU, faculty members from different departments of our university and some guests from AIUB and Stamford University also attended the lecture. Professor Manzoorul Islam who writes in the post modernist style, spoke about the darker side of Modernism. He explained how ideas and theories travel from one place to another and gather the flavour of the new place to assume a new shape.

BRAC University Institute of Educational Development (BU-IED)

A visit by Dr. Carolyn A. Brown

Dr. Carolyn A. Brown is a professor of Education at George Washington University. She worked as a professor of Teacher Education in California, and has helped to create several teacher education programs in the United States of America. Dr. Brown has been working with a team of professionals at BU-IED to develop a teacher education program for the students of BRAC University. Dr. Carolyn Brown presented a talk on "School Improvement and School Effectiveness: Basic Strategies" on December 09 2007 at BU-IED. During her visit with BU-IED, Dr. Brown also facilitated a seminar titled "Teaching and Learning in Higher Education" at BRACU on December 12, 2007. The seminar was chaired by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRACU.

Second National ECD Conference 2007

Early Childhood Development Resource Centre of BU-IED organized the Second National ECD Conference with the slogan 'Our Children Our Future' on 10-11 December 2007 at Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA) premises. About five hundred Early Childhood Development programme implementers, facilitators, teachers and professionals including representatives from governmental, non-governmental, international agencies participated in the two-day-long conference. International participants from Columbia University and Open Society Institute, London also presented papers. The objectives of this conference were to share and exchange information and innovations in the field, increase awareness of the importance of early childhood development and consider future directions of the Network. The two-day-long programme included four plenary sessions and fourteen concurrent sessions; exhibitions of ECD programmes, activities and materials; children's performance; video shows.

Career Services Office

British American Tobacco's Battle of Minds "A Case Competition"

Four participants for the Battle of Minds Case Competition "Tanveer Rouf (ESS) Tanvir Ahmed Dhaly (BBS), Omar Sherniabat (BBS) and Mariam Binte Faruk (BBS)" has been selected for the second round for the "Battle of Minds" contest of BATB.

The Group presented a case on "Aarong: Making a Global Brand from Bangladesh. The final competition will be held on the 24th of January 2008.

Internship Placement for Spring 2008

For the Spring 2008 semester 88 students had applied for internship placements and all the students have been successfully placed.