

2007/july

Institute of Governance Studies

On the 22nd of July 2007 the Centre for Governance Studies changed its title to the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS). The Masters in Governance & Development program commenced on 29th July 2007 at the Training & Resource Centre (TARC) in Savar. The Institute is in discussion with the University of Mantioba & North-South University (NSU) to develop a Certificate course on environmental governance in partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The Institute is currently carrying out extensive research on a Policy Note for the 'Institutions of Accountability' on the Public Service Commission. Dr Ferdous Jahan is carrying out the research with the help of Mr Asif Sahan & Mr Niloy Ranjan Biswas. The findings will be published through a workshop in mid-August.

Department of Economics & Social Sciences

ESS Seminar

Abu Zafar Md Shahriar, Lecturer, Department of Economics and Social Sciences presented his paper titled "The Impact of Microfinance on Seasonal Hardship in Northern Bangladesh: A Propensity Score Matching Approach" on Thursday July 26, 2007

Mahasthangarh and Paharpur Visit

A group of around 150 students led by a group of faculty and staff went to visit archeological sites of Mahasthangarh and Paharpur on 12th July. The students visited Archaeological Museum, Govinda Bhita and Mahasthangarh in Bogra on 12th July and Paharpur Buddhist Monastery and Paharpur Museum in Naogaon on 13th July. BRAC's Ekota Popular Theatre Group of Bogra staged a drama for visitors in the evening on 12th July. This educational trip was led by Brig Gen Shafat Ahmed, Dr. Abul Monsur, Kamrul Hasan, Ekramul Haque, and Moshahida Sultana. This trip was part of the Bangladesh studies course offered at Residential Semester in Savar by the Department of Economics and Social Sciences.

BRAC Visit

As part of academic exercise of Bangladesh Studies course, all students of Residential Semester at TARC, Savar visited BRAC programs in Gazipur and Manikganj on July 21 and July 28. Students visited BRAC's Education, Health, Microfinance and Human Rights and Legal Service/ Social Development Programs.

Musical Soiree

Dr. Mridul Kanti Chakrabarty, Singer and Professor of Music and Theatre Department, Dhaka University gave a lecture on Bangla Music for the students of Bangladesh Studies on 24th July at Markuli Hall in TARC, Savar. Dr. Chakrabarty and other singers rendered Bangla songs and captivated the audience.

Drama by Actor Rahmatullah

Mr. Rahamt Ali, Actor and Faculty Member of Music and Theatre Department, Dhaka University gave a guest lecture on Bangla Drama and Theatre on 31 July at Markuli Hall in TARC, Savar. Mr. Ali, Mr. Syedur Rahman and some students also took part in some theatrical performances after the lecture.

Faculty Attends Seminar in Nepal

Jahangir Alam, Sr. Lecturer & Asst. Director, Student Affairs participated in the Biannual Research and Training Workshop and presented a paper on the Economic Cost of Child Diarrhoea organized by the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) from July 8-12, 2007 at Kathmandu in Nepal. He also participated in the Advance Econometrics: Dummy Dependent Variables, Survey Design and Evaluation Methods course organized also by the SANDEE from July 3-7, 2007 at Kathmandu in Sri Lanka.



BRAC Business School

BRACU Team Participates in the Citi Financial Quiz Competition 2007

Organized by the Citigroup and facilitated by North South University, the Citi Financial Quiz Competition 2007 will be broadcasted in Channel I from August 9, 2007 in which 12 public and private universities participated. BRAC University sent a team of 3 students with finance major in this competition who are: 1) Eva Veronica Costa 2) Abdullah Al-Mamun 3) Eshrat Mustafa (Team Leader)

Mr. Ashique Khan, Lecturer - BRAC Business School acted as the faculty advisor of the team. The BRACU team took part in this competition in the shortest notice and worked hard to perform well. The faculty members of BRAC Business School, especially Mr. Ali Salman, had numerous sessions with the team to assist and guide the three-team members who have never participated in this kind of a competition before. The BRACU team qualified to the quarterfinal of this competition by securing the 2nd position (40 points) in the 1st round encounter with Stamford (60 points) and Shahjalal University (20 points). The recording of this episode was done on July 29 2007 (Friday) at 12:00PM. BRACU met Chittagong University in the quarterfinal on July 30, Monday at 4:00PM. In a keenly contested encounter BRACU (20 points) lost to Chittagong (40 points) although the BRACU was leading the 1st two parts of the program. The experience was invaluable for our team and our student spectators and the BRACU team is confident to do better in such future events.



Clubs-Forums Activities

BRAC University Computer Club - BUCC



Won Prize in NSUCC Math Olympiad 2007

During the midterm week, 10 BUCC members applied for registration on July 1, Sunday for the Math Olympiad which was a part of 5th Techno Fun Fair. On July 4, Wednesday, 6 members were able to participate in the 2 hour long Olympiad during 10am-12pm. They were Annajiat Alim Rasel, Intekhab Al-Hafiz, Fahd Bin Haider, Md. Eftakhairul

Islam, Nur-UI- Arafat Shomik, and Shamim Ahmed. Fahd Bin Haider won the 3rd prize. Crest Received BRACU participants at Prize Giving Ceremony



Member meeting

A 3 hour long meeting targeting organization of Olympiads at BRACU was held on July 4. Senior BUCC members as well as prize winners of NSUWF TeleMpiad 2006, 2007 and NSUCC Math Olympiad 2007 were present. Meeting ended by celebrating the win in the math Olympiad and refreshments.

Course Help Desk

A 7 hour long help desk offering assistance in MSC 142, CSE 110, CSE 111, CSE 310 was held in UB 305 during 2pm-->9pm on July 9, Monday by Intekhab Sadekin and Annajiat Alim Rasel. About 10 students were assisted in their course work.

Practice Contest

A daylong practice computer programming contest was held in UB 305 during 10am to 5:30pm. This was to prepare for upcoming Daffodil Inter-University Programming Contest (DIPC) 2007 later this month. The contest was followed by problem set analysis and refreshments.

Participation in DIPC 2007

4 teams consisting of 12 contestants participated in the Daffodil Inter-University Programming Contest (DIPC) at DIU, Dhanmondi Campus. Day 1 was a practice contest to make contestants familiar with the contest environment. Day 2 was for the actual contest. A meeting was held with representatives from each team on preparing and approaching problems, prior to the contest. Later on July 20, one team of BRACU named, BRACU Parhelia was declared to have obtained the 15th position. Other BRACU teams were BRACU

Palindrome, BRACU Evolution, and BRACU Warcraft. Contestants were, Annajiat Alim Rasel, Loban Amaan Rahman, Tanvir Sumit Kaykobad, Khan Md. Anwarus Salam, Imran Ahmed, Md. Intekhab Al-Hafiz, Intekhab Sadekin, Ashraf Ullah Mishu, Mahtab Uddin, Hira Saha, Hasan Al Khaled, and Ehsan Aleem Avee. It was a nice combination of BUCC members ranging from fresher to graduating students. Team Details: <http://www.daffodilvarsity.edu.bd/dipc07/teamslist.htm> Rank list: <http://www.daffodilvarsity.edu.bd/dipc07/wrapper2.html> In the spirit of being in top 20 and team name being uttered in the prize giving ceremony, the preparation for arranging an invitation-only competition with top 20 teams started shortly.



Participation in FOSS Survey

About 20 volunteers from BUCC participated in the FOSS survey hoping it would prove to be beneficiary to Open Source related activities in Bangladesh. BUCC printed, surveyed and submitted the result in person to Bangladesh Open Source Network (BdOSN) office at Sonargaon road on July 21st.

Annajiat Alim Rasel (04101017), and Md. Eftakhairul Islam (07310001) volunteered



throughout the event. To learn about BdOSN visit <http://bdosn.org>

An Intra University TeleMpiad (Tele-communication Olympiad) was held on July 28th (Saturday) in UB 305 and UB 307 during 2pm-5pm. During these 3 hours, about 25 contestants tried their best to test their talent in Mathematics, Physics, Telecommunication, and Circuits & Electronics. Questions were set by former IOI and IMO world finalists. Registration for the event was done via both walk-in and using <http://faculty.bu.ac.bd/~rouf/contest/telempiadjul07/reg.php>. Annajiat Alim Rasel (04101017) and Khandaker Wasim Reza Tonmoy (04101021) volunteered during the event. Refreshments were served in the middle of the 3 hour long event. Majority of the participants utilized contest time till the very last second.

Participation in World Cyber Games (WCG) Competition

Followed by a very short-termed BUCC availed practice opportunity, Fahd Bin Haider (07110091) from BUCC participated in the FIFA 2007 part of WCG - Bangladesh Championship held during July 27-29 at Bangladesh- China Friendship Conference Centre (BCFCC). He played up to 2nd round of the competition.

Workshops

Throughout the month, workshops on Graphics Design using Adobe Photoshop, Software Development using MS Visual Basic and Object Oriented Thinking/Programming using Java were held. Instructors from senior part of BUCC were Sumit Roy, Intekhab Sadekin, Maruf Muqtadir and Annajiat Alim Rasel.

BRACU Film Club

Editorial Published 2Nd Issue and Work Distribution Meeting

Due to the impatience of all the enthusiastic club members who were recruited this semester, this meeting was called. The main aim of this meeting was to assign the freshers to different fields of the upcoming works. The response to work for the club was so overwhelming that we had to select randomly the members to assign the different jobs to different members. The meeting was started at around 5pm and was continued till 6:30pm. All jobs of various branches of the film club were discussed and the future plans of the clubs were planed. The meeting was brought to an end with supper. On the same day, the 2nd Editorial of this semester was published. This time, the editorial was scaled to A3 size and color printed.

Film Show: Nacho Libre

This show was not only a success for the club, but also for the freshers. Screened at UB403, this show was solely arranged by the fresh new members of the club.. This show really proved that the new members are really capable of doing jobs flawlessly. Three cheers for the freshers for their huge success.

Collaboration with CRP for Film Show

Instead of only showing films in the BRAC University campus, BUFC took a step forward to screen films outside the campus. Our team went to Center of Rehabilitation for the Paralyzed (CRP), Savar to screen a film. The show was enjoyed by the CRP members and the patients. This was a very remarkable step BUFC took to take this club outside the university and spread the name to other places like it did in CRP.

Discussion, Documentary and Film show in collaboration with CRP

This day was a very special day for BUFC. The founder of CRP Veleroy A Taylor was came to BRAC University under the request of BUFC. She gave a very pleasant speech and was very pleased to see the platform which was made for the access of wheelchair to the cafe. Also she was very happy to see one of her patient OVI who was there in CRP 7 years back. Then, several small documentaries were screened regarding the paralyzed people. Later the main attracting of the program, the film named RADIO VAI. Although many audiences were not there, still those who saw the film really enjoyed it and were very touched. Overall the whole program was a huge success for the club.

Students Affairs Office

Sometimes a little award gives the inspirations of working for next hundred years. And the same thing happened on 12th of July within the BRAC University students who achieved the honor to have a dinner with the VC, Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury. There was a festival look in-between the students since the very day they got to know about the honor. This formal dinner was a tribute to those fellows who worked very hard for different programs and happenings-annual programs, celebrated festivals, for monitoring the convocation, club fairs and so on--in the University all through the year. People don't get this chance very often rather they have to wait for a long year of time period for this honor. And of course the effort of the students for contributing in diverse activities is unaccountable. The invitation cards, tagging as "VC, Prof. Jamilur Reza Choudhury would like to have the pleasure of your presence in the dinner" were sparkling like most precious and honorable reward received ever before for the students. From the very morning of the due date of 'formal dinner', there was a festival look within the volunteers who got the invitation card. Many of them came into the University with the festive look and many of them went back to their home for a bit makeover and fresher look in the party. On the evening, the designated place for the dinner-EFES, Gulshan-1, was full of charming faces with a delightful smile on the face of the invited students. Some faculties, along with honorable Pro VC were also present there who were all along as the support for the enthusiastic volunteers. The most outstanding wanted singers of BRAC University, Rupam and Tahmid were also there to make the evening glittering and happening. As their sweetest melodies started, the whole space became silent. They actually fulfilled the environment with their tunes. Though it was named as formal dinner but in truth that was actually a warm get together of all invited students and authorities.

BRACU Annual Cultural Program

Organized by: BRAC University Cultural Club (BUCuC)

on the 25th of July, BRAC University has shown their versatility through their Annual Cultural Program. BRAC University Cultural Club (BUCuC) had organized this Annual Cultural Program and has actually proved that BRAC University is culturally enriched and gave us the true example of how practice makes everything perfect.

The preparation of the function was a tremendous job which was made easy by the organizing committee and the volunteers. While the performers were busy rehearsing and dealing with their tiresome rehearsal schedule, the organizing committee and the volunteers were struggling each moment to bring the Success. The Annual Cultural Function could not have been such great without the team spirit of the BUCuC.

On the function were present the guest of honors the Vice Chancellor - Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury and the Pro-Vice Chancellor - Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed. The show began at 7:30 in the National Museum Auditorium and it was house full. All the hard work was paid off when the show was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience and each performer was appreciated by huge rounds of applause. Most of the performers

were freshers and they kept the eager audience entertained with variations of songs and dance performances and recitation.

From beginning to end each individual of the university has supported this Annual Cultural Program from the faculty to the students as well as Brac Net, who helped us to bring the function into reality. The amount of money gathered from the selling the tickets of the function will be given to BRAC Charity Fund. Way to go BUCuC!! and wishing them a very good luck for their upcoming functions.

The Beginning of Oikos Dhaka's Tree Plantation Program

Oikos members were informed that the Tree Plantation Program would take place on Saturday the 30th of June 2007. The idea was to start a program of this sort in a school so that kids could learn the usefulness of planting trees and plants on a long-term basis. The school Oikos went to was Methodist English Medium School in Mirpur. Because the Mid term week was underway, a total of six Oikos members could take part in this event. The team included Impa, Dithy, Srutee, Rumman, Hasan and Rizwan Shamim. The girls had reached the school earlier while Hasan and Rizwan joined them later on with the plants and necessary materials. They first went to the Principal's office. Impa, Dithy and Srutee had prepared Tree plantation related posters which they posted on the walls of the school later on. The Principal supported Oikos by providing the representatives with a microphone and the support of the school's gardener. Oikos member then went to the playground where there was a fenced area for plants to grow. First of all they posted a banner of the Tree Plantation program and the kids already started to wonder what was happening. Rizwan had the job of talking in the microphone and started announcing to all the kids that a tree plantation was going on and told them to join Oikos. As kids started to join Oikos, they shared Oikos thoughts on the usefulness of trees, how to plant them and told them, which plants Oikos, was planting. One by one Oikos members planted six different plants namely Bokul, Arjun, Rokto Chandan, Dev Daru, Krishnachura and Beli, and some staff from the school helped Oikos to do the work. Oikos took photos with the students, and also with the Principal and to end their first day, Oikos fixed a steel plate with Oikos's tree plantation initiative written on it. And that is how the first day of the tree plantation program went and Oikos think it was a successful way to start.

Department of Architecture

Student Achievement

Nazia Roushan a freshman has been awarded a scholarship by the American Center for participation in the Near East and South Asia Undergraduate Exchange Program. The scholarship provides for a year of undergraduate studies in the US.

Guest Lecture

Dr Robert Hodgson, a consulting civil engineer and research fellow in the School of Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Exeter in southwest England delivered a lecture on 08 July 2007 on 'Housing and Hazards: mitigating disaster with stronger homes' at the Department of Architecture, BRAC University. The lecture was focused on Housing and Hazard (H&H) group's experience in Bangladesh through educational links, workshops and demonstration projects in rural areas.



Students Receive Award

Two sophomore students Nabila Nowrin and Sadia Nishat won second prize as a group in the daylong design charette held as part of the AIUB Architecture Week 2007. The charette was held on 20 July 2007 at the Department of Architecture, American International University of Bangladesh. A total of 202 students from various schools of architecture from all over Bangladesh participated in the charette.

BRACU Faculty Attends Seminar at Kathmandu University, Nepal

A group of four faculty members of the Post Graduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM) attended the 'Bangladesh -Nepal -UK Seminar on Disaster Risk Studies in Higher Education: Linking Community for Livelihood Security': a 2 day conference held from 01 July 2007 and hosted by the



Disaster Management and Sustainable Development Centre, Kathmandu University, Dhulikhel, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Dr. Iftekhhar Ahmed, Ms. Dilruba Haider and Md. Hafizul Hasan faculty members and Mr. Humayun Kabir the coordinator of PPDM attended the conference. The focus of this joint conference was to bring together the expertise of the Universities of Northumbria, Kathmandu, BRACU and BPKIHS to explore and highlight the importance of disaster risk reduction curriculum in higher education studies. This program is supported by Development Partnership in Higher Education Programme (DePHE), British Council.

Angan Special Event

On 31 July 2007 an Angan lecture titled, "NYARMA: The Architecture of the Mandala in the Western Himalaya" was presented by Gerald Kozicz, lecturer of TUGRAZ, Austria. As part of his ongoing research "Architectural Principles of Vajrayana Buddhism based in North-Western India/ Western Tibet" funded by Australian Science Fund (FWF), Mr. Kozicz came to Bangladesh to visit Paharpur and Maynamati Buddhist Vihara. Teachers and students of the department of architecture attended the event and participated in the discussion that followed.

BRAC School of Public Health (BSPH)

MPH Student Course update

The MPH students completed the course on Environment and Health that had started on 24 June. The course coordinator was Bilqhis Amin Hoque and Joe Graziano and was assisted by M R Shuvra. The course finished on 12 July 2007.

Students have completed their 6-months field work at the Savar campus and moved to Dhaka campus after a short two weeks break. Their classes are currently being held at the ICDDR,B campus. The course on Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases is currently underway. It is being taught by Richard Cash and Steve Luby and assisted by Kazi Mizanur Rahman. The course started on 29th July and will end by 16th August, 07

Seminar series

Dr Ainun Nishat, Country Representative of International Center for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) delivered a seminar on Global Warming and Bangladesh. He gave a brief overview of the history of climate change, its impact and global response to it and climate change trend in Bangladesh and potential impact of sea-level rise in Bangladesh. The key issues of his discussion included: a) the projected adverse impacts that we are facing in Bangladesh, b) common peoples' perceptions in Bangladesh on adaptation to climate change, and c) responses of Bangladesh to climate change regime. He explored the areas of vulnerability and how it impacts livelihood in terms of food security, agriculture, health, infrastructure, trade and industry, and eventually level of poverty. He also discussed priority issues of adaptation, like change in national policy and development planning, scientific and agricultural capacity development, GO/NGO collaboration for research and community based adaptation activities.

Tanzeba Ambereen Hauque, Senior Sector Specialist, BRAC Health Program presented a seminar on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Program of BRAC. She shared an overview of how the program was started, its justification and its impact on health and livelihood of rural poor. She also talked about the repercussions for the lack of access to safe water and sanitation. She discussed the program goal, challenges in improving health status focusing on environment, water and sanitation, and how these interventions relate to the Millennium Development Goals. She elaborated on BRAC 's experience in WASH sector, the program objectives, program area map, program components, key approach, activities, baseline findings, awareness and tools support, capacity building, and level of interventions. She also elaborated on the impact and outcome indicators of the program.

International Conference on Gender and Sexuality

The School hosted International Workshop on Gender and Sexuality, July 28-30 at BRAC Center. Invited participants were faculty members and researchers of relevant discipline from all universities within the country,



human rights activists, NGO personnel, and a number of international activists, experts and researchers joined from India, Pakistan, Turkey, Nairobi, UK and USA. The idea of the workshop was to generate awareness on Gender and Sexuality, build networks and eventually develop a curriculum. One output of the workshop will be a resource pack with documentation of the workshop with selected presentations as reading materials for teaching or training purposes. This workshop was organized under the auspices of the Research Program Consortium (RPC) on Realising Rights: Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health for Poor and Vulnerable Populations.

Institute of Educational Development (BU-IED)

A Visit by Mike Harrison



Michael Harrison, retired Dean for Teaching and Learning at the School of Education, University of Manchester in the UK, visited BU-IED from 13 to 26 July. Prof. Harrison is now a consultant for the National College for School Leadership. His visit was in connection with the planning of the Post-Graduate Diploma and MEd program, which BU-IED expects to offer early in 2008. A BU-IED team worked with Mike on the details of content and delivery of the program. The program is intended to develop participants from within the Bangladeshi education community in their understanding of theories and principles of leadership and help them to see how these concepts can be applied to improve performance of students and institutions.

BU-IED at Education Research Conference

BU-IED participated in the Tenth Educational Researchers' conference for dissemination of research studies organized by UNESCO-BAFED (Bangladesh Forum of Educational Development) Researchers Forum on 8th July 2007 at IDB Bhaban, Sher-e- Bangla Nagar. Five research findings were presented in the daylong conference. MS Mahmuda Akhter, head of the Early Childhood Development Resource Centre (ECDRC) of BU-IED and Mr. Aftab Opel, Principal Investigator and Consultant, ECDRC presented the first two research findings titled "Playing with mathematics: A pilot Intervention to Develop Basic Mathematical skills among the preschoolers in Bangladesh" and "A literacy intervention for preschool children in Bangladesh: the benefits of dialogic reading".

Workshop on Program Design for Early Childhood Development

A workshop on the Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA) Program Package Review of Shishu Bikash Kendro (SBK) and Pre-primary (PP) schools was organized by the Early Childhood Development Resource Centre (ECDRC) of BU-IED at the BU-IED conference room from 9th July to 17th July, 2007. The workshop, sponsored by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) and Plan Bangladesh, had participants comprising nearly fifty ECD



experts, professionals, stakeholders and government representatives. The main objective of the workshop was to share information about the curricular framework for SBK and PP education, to review and analyze the existing learning packages of SBK and PP and to develop a standard learning package for SBK and PP involving the major ECD stakeholders of Bangladesh ECD Network. After a weeklong group work on specific subject areas, the workshop ended with the sharing session held on 17th July where the conclusions were presented to ECD professionals, stakeholders and government representatives.

Research on Education Access and Equity

The second phase of CREATE (Consortium for Research on Educational Access, Transitions and Equity) has begun in July with the baseline survey of a sample of children at home and school in Khanshama Upazila of Dinajpur. Similar surveys will be undertaken in five other locations in the country with the partnership of an NGO involved in education in the locality. The children will be tracked for at least three years in order to shed light on the dynamics of participation, performance and exclusion in education programmes. Besides BU-IED, seven other research institutions from India, Ghana, South Africa and U.K. are partners in the international research project supported by DFID.

MBA Forum

Event: 1

MBA Forum reorganized itself after a formal election process. Mr. Khaleq Newaz Adviser, MBA Forum, supervised the election process. Election results will be processed in the coming weeks. The first General Body Meeting was organized on 1st August 2007, at 04:45 PM in Conference Room AH 401. All the Executive Body Members and honorable Advisors of MBA Forum Professor Mojib Uddin Ahmed and Mr. Khaleq Newaz were present on that meeting. Various academic and non-academic issues were discussed.

**Event: 2**

MBA Forum successfully inaugurated the Indoor Games Competition on 7th August, 2007. Our honorable Pro VC, Dean BBS, Director of MBA Program and handful of Master level students were also present on that occasion. Total 30 Masters level students participated in Chess, Carom and Table Tennis events.

Teaching Learning Centre

Currently at TLC, student development is done through the HUM103 Ethics and Culture course that is delivered to all the students except Architecture majors at the Residential Semester. TLC has designed a unique methodology whereby each student undergoes a self-reflective journey called "Discover Yourself". They first discuss a reflective poem called "Shadhin" written for the students by TLC and do a self-evaluation. At the end of this the students identify two major areas in which they wish to improve themselves. The graph below (Discover yourself research.xls) shows all the areas in which the students of Summer 2007 at RS wished to improve themselves. 98 students or over 70% of the students wished to improve their Time Management skills. Accordingly, two Time Management workshops were held at Savar on July 17th and July 24th, 2007 for the students.

Graphical presentation of the number of students want to improve these skills

Another change introduced by TLC is the Ethics Committee Drama. Here all the students of HUM103 form groups that study ethical behavior of the students themselves and their surroundings at RS. To build awareness of unethical behavior each Ethics Committee group hosts a "drama" to attempt an 'intervention'. The picture on the left below shows a batch of students working in their Ethics Committee groups in July, 2007 and one of the Ethics Committee groups holding their drama. The dramas were hosted throughout July 2007 by the five batches of HUM103. Each batch has about 7 Ethics Committees. The students thoroughly enjoyed the drama sessions and came



up with innovative ideas on how to build awareness of unethical behavior among themselves. This work is a tremendous step towards meeting the vision of BRAC University to create 'sensitive ethical leaders for tomorrow'.

Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) Department

Seminars Organized by the MNS Department

The Department of MNS has initiated a series of postgraduate seminars on some important topics of biotechnology. Three seminars in this series were held on July 5, 2007. Ms. Farhana Naznine, Mr. Mahfizur Rahman and Ms. Jebunnesa Chowdhury, students of M.S in Biotechnology Program gave seminars on "Microbial Biotechnology- Past, Present and Future", "Cloning: Prospects and Controversies" and "Golden Rice -Genetic Technique and Its Impact" respectively. Faculty members of MNS and other departments and some postgraduate students participated in the seminar. Mr. Md. Maruf Ahmed, Lecturer of Mathematics at the Department of Mathematics & Natural Sciences gave a seminar entitled "Generalized Inverse and its Applications" on Thursday, July 19, 2007 where faculty members of MNS and other departments and some students attended the seminar.

Seminars/ Workshops/Training Course etc.

Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, participated in a two week training course on Plant Molecular Biology entitled "A Biosystems Approach to Combat Plant Stress Effects in Arid Areas" in Germany, from 1-14 July 2007. It was organized by the Leibniz University, Hanover, Germany with financial assistance from DAAD and Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. During this course Dr. Islam received practical training on molecular approaches applicable in developing abiotic stress tolerance in plants along with theoretical knowledge on various issues in climate change and its impact on plants.

Azharul Hoque Selim and Ifthkhar Ayub, members of "Annushondhitsu Chakra", a science club gave a demonstration lecture on "Sound Level Measurement in the City of Dhaka" at the MNS Department on Thursday, July 12, 2007. In his address of introduction of the speakers Dr. Dipen Bhattacharya said that this could be an interesting topic for project work of the physics major students of BRACU. A documentary video titled "World in 2057" was later shown. The event organized by BUNSC was well attended by the students of the different departments of BRACU.

Prof. A.A. Z. Ahmad presided over a seminar entitled "Study of Magnetic Polarity Field Intensity of the Earth's Crust along Both Sides of Dauki Fault in Bangladesh" organized by National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI). The seminar was held at NOAMI's office at 10/8 Eastern Plaza, Sonargaon Road, Dhaka on Saturday, July 14, 2007. The Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh financed the project. The Project Director Dr. Esmat Mirza, General Manager, PetroBangla, presented the keynote paper. Scientists and researchers attended the seminar from different R/D institutions and universities of Bangladesh.

Dr. Dipen Bhattacharya, Associate Research Professor of Astrophysics, Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, University of California, Riverside, USA and a Fulbright Fellow at the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences gave a seminar talk on 'The First Star' on the occasion of the 14th Death Anniversary of late Professor Abdul Jabbar, the noted pioneering astronomer of Bangladesh. The event organized by the Bangladesh Astronomical Association was held on Sunday, July 22, 2007 at the Russian Cultural Centre, Dhaka.

Dr. Aparna Islam, Assistant Professor of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, participated in a three-day training workshop on Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) from July 28-30, 2007 organized by the Department of Environment (DoE), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh with financial assistance from UNEP-GEF. The training included web-based information system of biosafety, which is an integral part of safe application of biotechnology.

MS Biotech Open Day

BRAC University organized 'Graduate Open Day' on Friday 20th July 2007 at the gymnasium of BRACU. The main goal of the program was to attract and inform people about the ongoing MS programs of BRAC University. In the program, a power-point slide show on Biotech program was demonstrated highlighting the prospects and applications of biotechnology in Bangladesh as well as throughout the world. Some posters and brochures were also presented. Postgraduate students and staff of the Department of MNS conducted the program.

Miscellaneous

Prof. A.A. Z. Ahmad, Prof. Naiyyum Chowdhury, Prof. Mofizuddin Ahmed and Dr. Dipen Bhattacharya from the MNS Department participated in a Discussion Session with Dr. Ataul Karim, an Expatriate Bangladeshi and Vice President Research of Old Dominion University, U.S.A. The event organized by "Prothom Alo" on Wednesday, July 11, 2007 was also participated by Prof. M. Kaykobad of BUET, Dr. Debopriya Bhattacharya of CPD, Dr. Mahbub Mojumdar, Dr. Reza Hossain, former CSO, BAEC and Mr. Motiur Rahman, Editor of Prothom Alo amongst others. Dr. Ataul Karim gave a presentation on the possible contributions that the expatriate Bangladeshis can make towards socio-economic development of Bangladesh. Lively discussion ensued the presentation.

Career Services office

Congratulations! to Din Md. Shibly Feroz, Asst Manager, Credit Risk Mgt. Services at Citibank NA for being awarded the CCO excellence award. Shibly had designed & circulated Limit Utilization report for Corporate obligors which will help our Regional Managers (RM) to know detail position of customers they own. This report has been appreciated by the Corporate Bank Head and all the RMs at the bank as an effective tool to monitor customers and maximize business opportunities.