

2010/march

Former WHO official to lead school of public health

Former assistant director-general of WHO Dr Timothy G Evans will lead BRAC University's James P Grant School of Public Health (JPGSPH) from July 1, 2010. He will be seconded to BRAC University from ICCDR, B as a senior strategic adviser on knowledge translation. A Canadian national, Dr Evans received his medical degree from McMaster University and trained at Brigham and Women's Hospital at Harvard University. He received his doctorate on Agricultural Economics from Oxford University. Previously he worked as an assistant professor of international health economics at the Harvard School of Public Health and as a director of the health equity at the Rockefeller Foundation.

Architecture Update

Department of Architecture celebrated Independence Day

'moitree', a students' cultural forum of Department of Architecture celebrated Independence Day with an cultural program named 'Aaj Notun Er Ekattur' on Tuesday, 30th March 2010 in studio CB901 at 5.30pm. Freshmen students organized the program. A collection of revolutionary and inspirational songs of 'Shaadheen Banglabetar Kendra', group dances with the live chorus, historical narrations, recitations with presentations were performed that evening. Faculty also participated by playing instruments. Students and alumni were present in the program.



ARC Faculty, Man-of-The-Match of 'shadhinotar daake cricket match'

'Shadhinotar Daake Cricket Match', a cricket match was held on 26th march 2010, to celebrate Independence Day between faculties XI vs. BRACU cricket team. Muhammad Nafisur Rahman, Lecturer of department of Architecture performed as an all-rounder. In bowling he took 4 wickets. His 4th wicket turned the match into a close one. He was the 'Shadhinotar Daake' man-of-the-match.

BBS Update

Guest lecture on Selling & Salesmanship in MKT-422

Fakir Mainuddin Hossain, Strategic Planner, Integrated Marketing Service gave a guest lecture for the course MKT 422, Selling and Salesmanship. He talked about the strategic issues and policies related to selling and salesmanship. The guest lecture took place on 10th March, 2010. The guest lecture was conducted by the course teacher, Suntu Kumar Ghosh, Senior lecturer, BBS.



Faculty and Students of J.F. Oberlin University visited BRAC Business School

BRAC University has had the privilege of having student exchanges in abundance over the years. Increasing number of foreign students have been attaining degrees in a variety of Masters programs as well. Therefore it was not much of a surprise to see J.F. Oberlin University of Japan send its students and faculties to BRAC University for an educational tour.

The team comprising of a total of 10 students and 2 faculties, namely Mr. Kanako Hayashi (Research Assistant of International Cooperation Program) and Mr. Nobuhiro Kumagai (Assistant Professor, International Cooperation, Masters of Development Studies) came to BRAC Business School, BRAC University on the 7th of March for about an hour starting from 10AM.

During their visit, the team spoke to the Director of the BRAC Business School (BBS), Dr. Sanaul Mostafa regarding the diverse ethnic groups that currently reside in different parts of Bangladesh, for instance Rangamati. They also expressed their interest in knowing more about the current status of BRAC University over issues such as the number of students currently taking their degrees and about the possible exchange of students abroad.

The team took the opportunity to do a presentation on poverty in Japan, demonstrating it during a Marketing Research class where they communicated with BRAC University students in an attempt to understand more about their awareness in case of such concerns. The complete program was coordinated by Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh and Ms. Syeda Rownak Afza, Senior Lecturers of BRAC Business School.

BDI Update

Designing Courses for the Savar Semester

BDI, in collaboration with the Centre for Languages (CFL), will be responsible for the BRAC University Savar Semester from Summer 2010. The main focus of the Savar Semester is to provide students with training in English, understanding of the history, society and politics of Bangladesh and appreciation of ethics and values.

BDI is currently designing two courses on Ethics and Culture (HUM 103) and Bangladesh Studies (DEV101). The main focus of Ethics and Culture is to familiarize students with the dominant theories in theoretical ethics as well as to develop their rational and analytical abilities so that they can be prepared to be value driven, ethical in their behaviour and demonstrate moral standards in their day-to-day activities.

Bangladesh Studies intends to equip students with factual knowledge and analytical skills that will enable them to learn and critically appreciate the history, politics, culture and economy of Bangladesh.

The courses are designed to be highly participatory and interactive with student presentations, films, documentaries and field trips.

Situation Analysis of Urban Slums in Bangladesh

BDI is conducting a multi-year, multi-site action research program to test out new ideas and new strategies to address the problems of urban poverty in urban slums.

The action research started in March. Five sites have been selected for in-depth qualitative and quantitative research.

Climate Change and Urban Poverty in Bangladesh (ClimUrb)

BDI, the Brooks World Poverty Institute, and the Manchester Architecture Research Centre at the University of Manchester are examining how the urban poor in Bangladesh are responding to the increasingly direct effects of global warming. The project is funded for three years by the Economic and Social Research Council UK and the Department for International Development (DFID).

Dr David Hulme, Dr Manoj Roy (BWPI-University of Manchester) and Dr. Ferdous Jahan (BDI) are leading the study. Field work has been completed and the analysis is ongoing.

Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme, BDI

Participation in Management Meeting of the Pathways Programme

Maheen Sultan, Coordinator of the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme at BDI, attended the Management Meeting of the Research Programme Consortium at Brighton, Sussex from 8-10 March. The meeting brought together hub convenors and theme convenors to strategize future plans and discuss their position in the overall plan of the programme.

Meeting with Anita Gurumurthy, IT for Change

Anita Gurumurthy, co-founder of IT for Change contacted the Pathways Programme and Citizenship DRC at BDI to discuss possible partnerships for an IDRC-funded Asia Research Programme on 'Gender and Citizenship in the Information Society'. Presentation and discussions were arranged on March 16th. The proposed research program aims to understand how social realities mediated by technology open up spaces as well as pose challenges for women, especially marginalized women, and seeks to develop a theoretical framework on technologies and new media through a citizenship lens. The Pathways Programme is interested in being a partner in this research, both to contribute to feminist research in ICTs, and also to open up new avenues of work after the end of the RPC Programme.

Visit by Jo Doezema, IDS, Sussex

The Pathways team at BDI organized a meeting with Jo Doezema from IDS, Sussex, on 11th March 2010. Jo Doezema is conducting a research on behalf of the Paulo Longo Research Initiative (PLRI). The research is on sex worker and their notions of empowerment. At the meeting, she shared the progress of her research in Bangladesh and the research insights and findings.

Co-facilitators in Community Policing Workshop

Sohela Nazneen and Maheen Sultan were a part of a three-member facilitation team for a regional workshop on gender, human rights and community policing, organised by GTZ in Dhaka on 3-4 March 2010.

Publication of articles in the IDS Bulletin 'Negotiating Empowerment'

The March 2010 issue of the IDS Bulletin, titled 'Negotiating Empowerment' contained the following articles by the members of the Pathways South Asia hub:

- a) Reciprocity, Distancing, and Opportunistic Overtures: Women's Organisations, Negotiating Legitimacy and Space in Bangladesh by Sohela Nazneen and Maheen Sultan
- b) Negotiating Islam: Conservatism, Splintered Authority and Empowerment in Urban Bangladesh by Samia Huq
- c) Women Watching Television: Surfing Between Fantasy and Reality by Aanmona Priyadarshani and Samia Afroz Rahim

An article entitled "The Power of Relationships: Love and Solidarity in a Landless Women's Organization in Rural Bangladesh" was published in IDS Bulletin, March 2010. The article was jointly written by Naila Kabeer and Lopita Huq (BDI).

Pathways Annual Report is out

The annual report of the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Programme Consortium was produced in March 2010. It details the work of Pathways based on its different hub and the program achievements over the past year.

BDI Lecture Series resumes

BDI has resumed its Lecture Series, which seeks to provoke discussions and thinking on the different dimensions of work that BDI is engaged with. The lectures will be held on the first Thursday of every month.

CfL Update

CfL Lecturer's Paper Presentation

Tahmina Anwar, a CfL Lecturer, presented her papers entitled "Impact of Personality on Second Language Learning" on the 6th of March at BRAC University.

The paper discusses and argues that if language instructors and target language learners can bring a balance in their personality through the blend of the introvert and extrovert qualities, it can be expected that second language learning will be faster and more accurate. In this paper, different stages of a class were described, which can affect the growth of personality type and language learning.

CfL takes part in offering Certificate Program on Education Management and Development for the Officials of Ministry of Education, Afghanistan



A six-month Certificate Program on Education Management and Development for the officials of the Ministry of Education (MoE), Afghanistan is being held under a training course organized by BUIED, CfL and BRAC Training Division. The course started on March 20th.

The participants consist of eight females and thirteen males. The course is divided into two parts; CfL is providing the support in the first part on Developing English and Communication skills. The other part is under the care of BUIED and BRAC Training Division.

CfL Lecturer attends TESOL Convention 2010 in Boston

CfL Senior Lecturer Sanjoy Banerjee attended TESOL Convention 2010 at Boston, USA from March 23rd to 27th. TESOL is one of the prestigious bodies in the field of research and implementation of English language teaching and learning.

He was awarded Professional Development Scholarship for Practicing ESL/EFL teachers in a grand reception in the convention centre; he is one of the 10 recipients selected from all candidates applied for the grant. This is also noteworthy that he received this award given by the TESOL Awards Committee for his unique research on learning English through social inclusion. From his observation, he argues that CfL is on the right track in implementing up-to-date theories and practices regarding English language teaching and learning, and teacher development.

Human Rights Workshop for Pre-University Students

CfL organized a workshop on Human Rights for Pre-University students on the 27th of March as a follow up session of their enhancement class. The main objective of the workshop was to create awareness of human rights issues

The workshop was successfully conducted by renowned human rights activist Faustina Pereira, PhD, Director of Human Rights and Legal Services, BRAC. She enlightened the students on various dimensions of human rights by explaining concepts such as the difference between rights and needs, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). and motivated them to think "out of the box". The workshop became vibrant with the spontaneous participation from the students who were extremely inquisitive to broaden their outlook on this issue. They shared their own personal experiences on violation of human rights happening in their lives and surroundings. All in all, the entire workshop was a complete success to instil awareness among the young generation as they are expected to work in a changing global scenario.

ENH Update

ENH faculty judges the National Public Speech Competition

The English Speaking Union organised a Public Speech Competition between the students of different English medium schools of Dhaka on 2nd March 2010 at the Scholastica Auditorium. The programme was held in the auditorium of The Scholastica School. Ms.Taleya Rahman of Democracy International presided over the session and Ms.Rukhsana Rahim Chowdhury of ENH rendered her services as a judge of the competition. The panel of judges was headed by Professor Rebecca Haque, Chairperson of the Department of English, University of Dhaka. Two students were selected to represent Bangladesh in the International Public Speech Competition to be held in May in London.

Study Trip to Shopping Mall

A day-long trip to Bashundhara Shopping Complex was organized for the students of the course ENG 331: Cultural Studies in Theory and practice by the department of English and Humanities on 13th March, 2010. Accompanied by the course teacher, Tabassum Zaman, students were encouraged to observe different facets of consumer culture in Bangladesh - including patterns of consumer behaviour, the physical space of the mall itself and its effect on the consumers - and link them with the theories taught in class.

ENH organizes a conference on Children's Literature

In acknowledgement of the National Children's day, the Department of English and Humanities in collaboration with Nayantara Communications organised a conference titled, Exploring the Magical World of Childhood through Children's Literature on 18th March 2010. Visiting Fulbright Professor, Dr. Kristine Peleg delivered the keynote address while Ms. Sara Zaker was invited as a special guest. The ProVC, Professor Golam Samdani Fakir graced the occasion as the chief guest.



The first session commenced with academic and critical approaches to the pedagogy of teaching children's

literature, publishing, translation and juvenilia. The second session examined the process of creating children's literature and culture in fiction, media and educational materials.

The conference maintained the tradition of participation of people representing other fields of study and even from outside academia.

Students of ENH, Zarin Rafiuddin and Durba Islam also presented their research findings on classic and modern day fairytales, which elicited a very lively discussion between the audience and the speakers.

ENH organizes a Creative Writing workshop



A creative writing workshop was organised by the Department of English and Humanities on 20th March 2010. Students from several English and Bengali medium schools of Dhaka participated in this daylong programme. The children were divided into three groups which worked under the supervision of famous storyteller Shamim Azad, writer Ali Imam and a team of creative writers from Nayantara Communications.

At the end of the daylong workshop the students were able to create wallpapers containing their own creative endeavours in the shape of stories and poems. The participants were helped by Syed Rashad Imam, an illustrator from Unmad. The fun filled day was rounded off by the cutting of a cake by the chief guest, Ms.Sara Zaker and the young writers.

ENH Student shares experiences with representatives of U.S President Barack Obama

Sonika Islam and Samira Nafees (alumnus) were invited to talk about the leadership roles they played in the voluntary community services that they have been rendering on a regular basis. On 22nd March they were invited by the American Centre to meet and discuss the scope of their work with Mr. Ari Alexander (Deputy Director of the office of Faith-Based and Neighbourhood Partnerships in the executive office of the President of the U.S. under President Barack Obama).

ESS Update

Seminars/ Presentations Organized by ESS Department

On 1st march, 2010 Teaching learning center of BRAC University organized a seminar on "Counseling in our daily life" where P.K. Saru (Psychotherapist and Director, ASHA Counseling and Training Center, India) were there for her key note speech as a chief guest. Dr. Shamim F. Karim, chairperson, Department of psychology, University of Dhaka and Dr. Mehtab Khanam, Professor, Department of psychology, University of Dhaka was also present as special guest. Acting vice chancellor Dr. Golam Samdani Fakir graced that seminar. Mahbuba Naznin Sani Lecturer, ESS Department, BRAC University commenced the seminar by her welcome speech. She explained the importance of counseling for the students and why and how BRAC University started counseling opportunity for BRAC university family.

Two seminars were organized by the Department of Economics and Social sciences on 4th and 25th of March'2010, entitled, "Does Afforestation Ensure Sustainability?" a study of haor in Bangladesh" and "Understanding the Micro Impact of Macro Changes: Linking HIES 2005 to a CGE Model" were presented by Dr. A. K. Enamul Haque, Executive Director of Economic Research group and Dr. Bazlul H. Khondker, Professor of Economics at Dhaka University respectively.

On 21st March, 2010 BRAC University arranged a seminar on 'Anti smoking and anti drug' in collaboration with MONON, MANAS and BUEC, where Professor Dr. Arup Ratan Chowdhury founder director of MANAS were presented as a keynote speaker. Honorable state minister for health and family welfare, Captain (retd) DR. Mujibor Rahman Fakir, presented as a chief guest at the seminar. Acting Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, Professor Golam Samdani Fakir, chaired that seminar. Mahbuba Naznin Sani, Lecturer, Department of Economics and Social Sciences and Advisor of MONON guided them through her experiences and devotion.

Village Visit by the Students of Bangladesh Studies

On March 06, 2010, a total of 120 students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) and Bangladesh History,

Culture and Society (SOC 102) at Savar Residential Semester went to visit villages in Savar, as part of their academic activities. Department of ESS organized the visit for the students of Spring 2010. The purpose of the visit was to inform students about the rural people of Bangladesh and their lives and livelihoods. Students spent the whole day with the villagers and shared their experiences.

The Campus Superintendent, Coordinator of Bangladesh Studies, faculty members of ESS, Counselors and house tutors of TARC, Savar accompanied the students.

Presentation on Historical Events

On March 20, 2010, there were 12 groups of students of Bangladesh Studies (DEV101) and Bangladesh History, Culture and Society (SOC 102) at Savar Residential Semester made presentations on historical events of Bangladesh as part of their academic activities. The topics for the presentations were Nawab Siraj ud Dowla and East India Company, The Permanent Settlement of 1793, Faraizi Movement, Indigo Rebellion 1859-60, The Partition of Bengal 1905 and the Swadeshi Movement, The Partition of 1947 and Bhasha Andolon of 1952.

Professor Syed M. Hashemi, Acting Chairperson of ESS conducted the whole sessions and appreciated students to engage themselves perfectly in history, culture and movements of Bangladesh. Mr. Md. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury, Campus Superintendent, Md. Abdul Wohab, Coordinator of Bangladesh Studies and Sr. Lecturer of ESS, Ms. Meheri Tamanna and Lutfun Nahar Lata, Lecturer of ESS, Counselors and house tutors of TARC, Savar were present at the events.

IGS Update

One of the components of the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability - South Asia Region and Global Partnership Fund (ANSA - SAR & Global) was officially launched at a press meeting at Journalism Training and Research Initiatives (JATRI) conference room on 7 March 2010. This is the first time a network has brought together diverse organizations from neighboring countries in the South Asian region, to work under a common theme of social accountability. Among others, the Acting Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, Professor Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, and the Director of IGS Barrister Manzoor Hasan, were present at the occasion. Thirty-five members from eighteen partner organisations, from countries as Argentina, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Kyrgyz Republic, Philippines and Sri Lanka were present and spoke at the event. This event also received significant coverage in the media both in Bangladesh and India.

Another component of IGS, Journalism Training and Research Initiatives - JATRI organized a day long workshop on Covering Unrest Situation on 22 March, 2010. The workshop was attended by a number of renowned photojournalists of Bangladesh. The event focused on experience sharing of covering unrest situation by the participants. The objective of the workshop was to share the experiences and challenges of photojournalists on covering unrest situation in Bangladesh. The event started with a welcome speech by Golam Kibria, Senior Training Manager, JATRI. Legendary photo journalist Mr. Pavel Rahman from AP, Mr. Shawkat Jamil from The Daily Star, Adid Abdullah from EPA shared their experiences in the field of photojournalism. At the end of the event Mr. Jamil Ahmed, Head of Program, JATRI extended a vote of thanks to all for taking part in the event.

JATRI Training Team organized a 3-days training course for the journalists of the new daily Adhinayak, which is yet to be published. The training course on Interviewing and Source Development Techniques was held from 30 March to 1 April, 2010. Based on the demand from the authority of the new daily, JATRI organised training course. The total of 20 participants attended the training. The objectives of the training course were to orient the participants with ethics and standards of journalism, source development, news interviewing techniques, etc. Mr. Probohash Amin, Joint Chief News Editor, NTV facilitated a session on News interviewing techniques as a recourse person. Mr. Mozammel Hossain Monzoo, Editor, the Daily Adhinayak was also present at the opening and closing sessions.

JATRI, organized a half day session on 10 March, 2010, where Tathagata Dasgupta, Associate Director, ORG Centre for Social Research, AC Nielsen South Asia gave a lecture on 'Interpreting Statistics for Media Professionals'. Interpreting statistics or graphically presented data are vital for good news, Tathagata Dasgupta said at the discussion. He also briefed about how to present statistics for the readers or

audiences. Tathagata Dasgupta said, "Interpreting statistics or graphically presented data in news also requires critical thinking". Senior Journalists from print and electronic media were present at the discussion. JATRI's Head of Program Jamil Ahmed moderated the session.

The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in South Asia (ANSA) and the Global Partnership Fund (GPF) organised a 2-day refresher course for the MA in Governance and Development Alumni on 29-30 March 2010 at BRAC Center for Development and Management (BCDM). Fifty-five former MAGD students who are now currently serving in the Bangladesh civil service at various levels attended the course. The workshop was based on interactive discussions among the government offices on the issues like social accountability tools, Participatory Expenditure Tracking Study (PETS), citizen's report card, community score card. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Gopakumar Thampi, Chief Operating Officer, ANSA-South Asia Region and Global Partnership Fund.

Institute of Governance Studies in association with the Brummer and Partners Bangladesh organized a day-long workshop on the state of corporate governance in Bangladesh on 18 March 2010. The main objective of the workshop was to discuss the state of corporate governance in Bangladesh with a view to addressing the challenges of establishing a strong base for corporate governance in Bangladesh. Chairman of Apex Group Syed Manzur Elahi presented the keynote speech on corporate governance and its importance in the global and regional context. IGS director Manzoor Hasan, CEO of Brummer and partners Bangladesh and director of IBA-DU, GM Chowdhury in their address highlighted relevant areas within corporate governance at the workshop. Other participating companies at the workshop were ACI, Al-Amin Group, Apex Group, Citibank NA, GEMCON Group, Delta insurance, Rahimafrooz, Ananta Group, Nitol-Niloy, HSBC and others.

A workshop on "Implementing Social Accountability Programs: Strategies, Approaches & Methodologies" was held between 8-11 March. This was an event of learning and sharing for the members of partner organisations, organized by ANSA - SAR & GPF. On 11 March, members from the 16 participating organisations from 6 countries signed Memorandums of Understanding with ANSA - SAR & Global, inaugurating the first round of grants being given through a seed fund, financed by the World Bank Institute.

Nuzhat Jabin, Project Associate, made a presentation on 'Empowering the Margins: Social Accountability & Climate change Adaptation' at a Training Workshop on Perspectives on Governance and Natural Resource Governance, organised by IUCN Bangladesh & UKaid on 09 March 2010.

Dr. Gopakumar K Thampi, Chief Operating Officer, ANSA-SAR, IGS, gave a lecture on Regional and International Experiences with RTI to 250 civil servants at PATC, Savar on 20 March, 2010. The presentation also drew upon ANSA's emerging mandate to promote RTI in Bangladesh.

MNS Update

International Conference on Magnetism and Advanced Materials (ICMAM-2010), at BUET

Muhammad Lutfor Rahman, Teaching Assistant of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) Department participated at the International Conference on Magnetism and Advanced Materials (ICMAM-2010) organized by the Department of Physics, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and Materials Science Division, Atomic Energy Centre Dhaka (AECD), on March 3-7, 2010 at BUET, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Mr. Rahman presented a paper entitled "Magnetic properties of Cu substituted Ni-Zn ferrites". The paper dealt with the structural and surface morphology of the NiCuZn ferrites. The magnetic properties of these ferrites were characterized with high frequency (1 kHz-15 MHz) complex permeability and temperature dependent initial permeability measurements. The DC magnetizations as a function of applied magnetic field were measured at temperature 300K by SQUID magnetometer. It was observed from X-ray diffraction that the samples formed spinel structure. Lattice parameters were calculated using the Nelson Riley function. The lattice constant increases with increasing Cu²⁺ content which follows the Vegard's law. The real part of the initial permeability increases with increasing Cu²⁺ content up to x=0.15 and beyond this value of x, permeability decreases. The Néel temperature, T_N, of these samples is determined from the temperature dependent and shows a decreasing trend as a function of Cu²⁺ content due to the weakening of the A-B interaction. Compositional variation of saturation magnetization and saturating field were determined from M-H loops measurement. The presentation was widely appreciated by the audience.

Voluntary Job through Bangladesh Girl Guides Association

Ms Lopamudra Chakravarty, Lecturer in Mathematics at the MNS Department is engaged in voluntary job through Bangladesh Girl Guides Association. She is a Young Leader and a Member of the National Executive Committee of the Association. She also works as a trainer in the Association. Ms Chakravarty was asked to give a talk on motivation in the guide guider training held at Physical Training College, Dhaka on 4 March, 2010. This session was to show how to motivate people in various steps and situations of their life and also how to motivate girls' in guiding, so that through guiding they can serve people to get a better life.

Visit of Faculty from J.F. Oberlin University, Tokyo, Japan, 14 March 2010

Dr. Yukimasa Tsubota, Professor of Meteorology and Mr. Nobuhiro Kumagai, Assistant Professor of J.F. Oberlin University, Tokyo, Japan met with Professor A.A.Z.Ahmad, Chairperson, MNS Department. They were accompanied by Engineer Tanzeba Ambreen Huq, Programme Manager, Disaster, Environment and Climate Change Programme, BRAC. Professor Ahmad elaborated on the programmes of BRACU in general and those of the MNS Department in particular. They also discussed the various possibilities of collaborative work of mutual interest.

Meeting with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, President, Governing Board, BRAC University

Professor Golam Samdani Fakir, Acting Vice- Chancellor and Professor A.A.Z.Ahmad, Chairperson, MNS Department met with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, President, Governing Board, BRACU, on 15 March 2010 to discuss various matters regarding launching of undergraduate programmes in Pharmacy, Biotechnology and Microbiology. The discussion was very fruitful.

UCB Notre Dame Science and Technology Festival

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury was the Chief Guest at the Prize giving Ceremony of the festival held on 15 March 2010. More than 200 students from different schools and colleges of Dhaka city participated in the festival held on 5-6 March 2010 and participated in physics, chemistry, biology and astronomy olympiads, general knowledge, extempore speech, digital poster and webpage design competitions. Mr. M. Shahjahan Bhuiyan, Managing Director, United Commercial Bank and Mr. Abed Khan, Editor, the daily Kaler Kantho were special guests. Sponsored by the United Commercial Bank, the function was attended by representatives of the Managing Director, UCB and Editor, the daily Kaler Kantho. Father Benjamin Costa, Principal, Notre Dame College presided. It may be mentioned that Notre Dame Science Club was established by Father R. W. Tim in 1955 and since then it has been playing a pioneering role in motivating young minds in creative science projects and promoting science education.

Interview of Candidates for Pharmacy, Biotechnology and Microbiology Programmes

The interview of 40 plus candidates for the appointment to different posts in the above- mentioned disciplines was held in Room UB503 of BRACU on 23 March 2010 at 3 p.m. Professor Golam Samdani Fakir, Acting Vice- Chancellor headed the Selection Board consisting of Professor A.A.Z.Ahmad, Chairperson, MNS Department & Professor Naiyyum Choudhury, Coordinator, Biotechnology Programme and the concerned external experts from the University of Dhaka. The interview continued for four hours and a number of faculties have been selected for appointment.

B.Sc.Thesis Defence

Nakib Haider Protik and Mohammad Murtaza Mahmud successfully defended their thesis work for the degree of BS in Physics on Thursday, March 25, 2010. The event was held in the Conference Room (UB 1521) of the MNS Department. Nakib Haider and Murtaza Mahmud did their thesis work under the joint supervision of Professor Arshad Momen, Department of Physics, University of Dhaka and Professor A.A.Z.Ahmad, Chairperson, MNS Department.

In Nakib Haider's thesis noncommutative geometry has been proposed as an effective method by which physics below the Planck length can be probed. On the other hand, the geometry of the underlying manifold can be probed using the topological field theories proposed by Witten and Schwarz. There exist many topological field theories defined on a variety of noncommutative geometries. In this report, a brief survey of noncommutative geometry is presented along with numerical simulations of the abelian and nonabelian Chern-Simons actions on the noncommutative 2+1 Groenewold-Moyal plane using the Monte Carlo Metropolis algorithm. The implications of the results are also discussed.

Murtaza Mahmud's thesis contained a presentation of his work on Ricci Flow and Wormholes in 4D. The idea

of Ricci flow is quite general and can also be used for understanding of the evolution of the space- time geometries. These techniques have been used to study the evolution of wormhole geometries of different types. e.g. Morris- Thorne wormholes and wormholes of bubble geometry. Depending upon the initial configuration the wormholes evolve in different ways. In some cases the wormhole throat decreases, pinches off and the manifold is divided into two different asymptotically flat universes. In some other cases the wormhole throat increases and the manifold becomes cylindrical. The evolution of Gidding- Strominger wormhole whose evolutionary process is affected by a spherically symmetric Kalb- Ramond field has also been studied. It is found that its throat increases during the evolutionary process.

Seminar on "Agricultural Biotechnology: Perspective and Future"

The students of MS in Biotechnology Programme at BRACU along with Dr. Aprana Islam, Assistant Professor and Mr. Riajul Hossain, Teaching Assistant attended a Seminar entitled "Agricultural Biotechnology: Perspective and Future" at the Department of Botany, University of Dhaka. The Seminar was organized on the 29th March 2010 by the Bangladesh Association for Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology (BAPTC&B). Two papers were presented by two eminent scientists from abroad. The first talk entitled 'Agricultural Biotechnology: a Worldwide Perspective' was given by Professor Alan C. McHughen, Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, University of California, Riverside, USA. In his talk, Professor McHughen elaborated the need for adopting advanced tool to ensure food security and importance of biotechnological approach to attain food security. The second talk entitled 'Agricultural Biotechnology vs. Organic Farming and Current Practices in Developing Countries' was given by Professor Hens Jørg Jacobsen of the Institute of Plant Genetics, Leibniz University of Hannover Germany. He outlined the benefits of agri-biotech and its public perception along with rational comparison for agricultural biotechnology with traditional and organic farming. Both the talks generated a lot of interest amongst the audience and a large number of questions were asked. The audience comprised scientists, faculty members and students of various research institutes and different departments of public and private universities of Bangladesh.

A Model Interpolating Between Regular And Scale Free Network With Tunable Exponent

Mr. Md.Kamruzzaman, Teaching Assistant of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS) Department participated at the International Conference On Recent Advances In Physics (RAP-2010) organized by the Department of Physics, University of Dhaka (DU) and Materials Science Division, Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka, on March 27-29, 2010 at the Senate Bhaban, University of Dhaka. Mr.Zaman presented a poster entitled "A Model Interpolating Between Regular And Scale Free Network With Tunable Exponent". The paper dealt with the complex networking system and developing a simple network model which emerges as a scale free network without imposing a preferential attachment rule given by Barabasi. The poster presentation was well appreciated by the audience.

Inauguration of BIPC Training Programme on Management of e-Resources

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury attended the Inaugural Ceremony of the BIPC Training Programme on Management of e-resources held at the auditorium of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology on March 31, 2010. Organized jointly by the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and the BUET, the training programme was attended by over 80 librarians, library staff, IT personnel and some academicians from different organizations of the country including BRAC University. Professor Choudhury was the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee of the training programme. Professor M Shamsheer Ali, President, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences was the Chief Guest and Professor AMM Safiullah was the Special Guest. National Professor AKM Aminul Haque presided over the ceremony. The Bangladesh INASP-PERii Consortium established under the auspices of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences in 2005 comprises more than forty research and academic organizations of the country and the Consortium subscribes to 35 world-renowned publishers and supplies more than 20,000 world-class publications to the scientists, teachers, researchers and students of different member organizations. It arranges training courses and offers trouble-shooting advice to different organizations in administration and management of e-resources.

RS Update

2nd Social Learning Lab & Village Visit

The second phase of Social Learning Lab of the Residential Semester was held on March 06, 2010. This time 66 students took part in this unique exercise. The students took over the whole TARC official responsibilities (such as all staff starting from campus superintendent down to cleaners was on leave) and run the whole campus on that day. The exercise created a lot of enthusiasm among the students and was performed successfully.

Village Visit

The second phase of village visit of the Residential Semester was held on March 06, 2010 and 136 students took part in this activity. Total students were divided into eight groups under the guidance of eight House Tutors and explored to different areas. Two faculties from ESS and ENH department along with campus superintendent accompanied some groups during the visit. Through this visit, students got chance to have a real life experience of how life goes on of the poor villagers and what is the taste of their life.

First RS Day at Savar Campus

On 7th March the first RS Day program of this semester was held. Major (Retd.) Kamrul Hassan Bhuiyan, Chairman & Chief Researcher, Center for Bangladesh Liberation War Studies was the Guest of Honor for that day. He shared some of his experiences of liberation war with the students. The program was conducted by the secretary of the student body.

A group of Japanese students visit Savar Campus



A group of Japanese students from SWITCH (an association of the students of 18 Japanese Universities whose aim is to strengthening relationship through cultural exchange) have Visited Savar Campus on Thursday, March 11, 2010. The group was of 18 students, of which 11 female and 7 male. They arrived at campus at 7 pm on 11th March and left on 13th March, 2010. They took part in Volleyball, Bou Chee, Kana Machi, Cock-fight, Sumo Wrestling with our students in a mixed group. They presented their country and gave a vivid picture about their country through a power point presentation and question answering session and in the same way our students also presented Bangladesh. On March 12 there was a cultural

program where the Japanese students performed their traditional fashion show and dances and our students also did the same.

2nd CfL Weekend at Savar Campus

To push the students to come up, speak out and flourish his/her respective hidden talent, CfL offers and organizes, (like every semester), different extra curricular activities at Savar Campus. In this semester activities like Jewellery box making, debating, quiz competition, Wall Magazine, creative writing, drama writing and so on are conducting by CfL. Whatever activities the students are involved in, they are communicating in English with each other, working in groups and nourishing their dormant talent. The Second CfL weekend was held on 13th March, 2010. This time the Japanese students also took part in the Jewellery Box Making with BRACU RS students.

Cultural Program

The Savar Campus experienced a beautiful, enjoyable and amusing cultural evening organized and participated by the students. On March 16, 2010, two dorms Sorjoroshmi & Krisnochura were took part in the cultural program. The audience revealed in the rendition of music, dance, fashion show and drama to their heart's content.



Kite Flying Day at Savar Campus

RS students organized a 'Kite Flying Day' at BU Campus, Savar on March 18, 2010. The students had great fun threading the kites and then flying them in the play field. This was a record kite-flying day since the 'Chaitra' breeze helped all the kites fly very high in the sky. The staff of BRACU, teachers and house tutors also actively took part in the event.

Parents Day

The final parents' day at Savar campus was observed on March 19, 2010.

Art Exhibition

The Rs Students organized art exhibition at Savar campus on March 22, 2010. The inauguration of the event was held at Anandopur at 5:30 PM. It was inaugurated by honorable campus superintendent Mr. Mahfuzul Bari Chowdhury.

Independence Day Program at Savar Campus

On the eve of Independence Day, students, staff and faculty members of RS organized a program at the Residential Campus of BRAC University, TARC, Savar. The program started in the morning with a rally of students, RS Campus Super, faculty members and other staff of BRACU and BRAC. They placed a flower reef at the replica of National Memorial at TARC, Savar. A cricket competition was also arranged on that day and students and faculty members participated in the competition. In the evening a cultural program marked 'Independence Day' was organized and students rendered songs, recited poems and performed dance.

SECS Update

IEEE Technical Tour of Civil Aviation Radar Station & Operations Center

This was the first Technical Tour arranged by IEEE BRAC University Student Branch in 2010 and the most exciting tour the students have been so far. Through spontaneous participation of the IEEE Student Members, the event was a total success. Under the blazing sun of 29th March, IEEE BRAC University Student Branch Members, under the supervision of Faculty members from School of Engineering and Computer Science, BRAC University and a generous co-operation from Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, organized a technical tour to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to study some of the control operations.

This technical tour comprised of thirty-six IEEE Student Members and five BRAC University Faculty members. A forty minute bus-ride to the airport led us to the highly restricted Control Operations area. Md. Ekhtiar Islam gave us a guided tour and described to us some of the technicalities.

Firstly we were given an idea of how transmitter and receiver units function in producing an image of Bangladesh's total air space, showing location of any aircrafts within the country's air territory. The radar data is then provided to the Air Traffic Control Tower who are constantly interacting with the aircrafts over the country's air space. We were shown some of the equipments used and what their functions are.

Next up was a bus-ride through the taxiway and runway where we got to experience actual aircrafts taxiing, taking off and landing just a few feet away from us. Some experience that was! This amazing bus-ride led us to our next stop: the Nav Aid System. This was a control unit placed quite far away from the runway with radial units that had numerous metal receivers attached on them. Under all this was a small room which consisted of the monitoring devices. These devices monitor and provide navigational data to the aircrafts and other control rooms. Information provided by these control units include things such as, how much an aircraft should or should not glide, whether the aircraft is still within the country's perimeters or not, the horizontal alignment of the runway etc.

Since the inauguration in 2008, the IEEE BRAC University Student Branch has organized a number of educational and technical Seminars and Workshops involving renowned academicians and leaders all around the world. As a proud IEEE member I can say on behalf of my whole community that we enjoyed the day, while learning quite a handful lot of information from such an interesting tour.

IEEE Life Fellow Prof. M. A. Rahman at BRAC University

On Sunday, 7th March 2010, IEEE Life Fellow from Memorial University, Canada, Professor M. A. Rahman paid a visit to BRAC University, Bangladesh to discuss about IPM Technology. In collaboration with IEEE Bangladesh Section and IEEE Power & Energy Society (PES) Bangladesh Chapter, IEEE BRAC University Student Branch organized this seminar. The purpose of this event was to provide the students from various universities in Bangladesh a unique experience to interact with one of the most influential Bangladeshis in the scientific society of today.



Prof. M. A. Rahman, who was born in Santahar, Bangladesh, on January 9, 1941, has been with the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL, Canada, since 1976. He is currently a Professor and a University Research Professor. He has 48 years of teaching, including about ten years of full-time and concurrent industrial, utility, and consulting experiences. As well as the vast experience in the field of engineering and technology, Prof. Rahman is the recipient of numerous awards,

including the GE Centennial Invention Disclosure Award in 1978, the IEEE Notable Service Award for contributions to IEEE and Engineering Professions in 1987, the IEEE Industry Applications Society's Outstanding Achievement Award in 1992, the Professional Engineers of Newfoundland Merit Award in 1994, the IEEE Canada Outstanding Engineering Educator's Medal in 1996, the IEEE Third Millennium Medal 2000, the IEEE Cyril Veinott Electromechanical Energy Conversion Award in 2003, the IEEE William E. Newell Power Electronics Award in 2004, the Khwarizmi International Award in 2005, the IEEE Eugene Mittelmann Achievement Award in 2007, the IEEE Richard Kaufmann Technical Field Award in 2007, the IEEE Power and Energy Society Distinguished Service Award in 2008, and the A. D. Dunton Award of Distinction in 2008. He is also the first Canadian to receive the highest achievement awards from four major IEEE societies.

In this seminar on "Advances of IPM Technology for Compressor Drives in Air-conditioners", Prof. Rahman discussed about his pioneering work on IPM technology, which is related to today's development of Hybrid cars like Toyota Prius. Information provided in the seminar along with the personal story revealed by Prof M. A. Rahman inspired the participating young engineers to reach higher goals in the field of science, engineering and technology.

EEE Faculty attended ICREGA'10 conference

Marzia Alam attended a three days long International Conference on Renewable Energy: Generation and Applications (ICREGA'10) on March 8th - 10th in Al-Ain, UAE. She was invited to present her paper "Output Power Improvement of Photovoltaic Cell Using Automatic Sun Tracking System" at the conference sited in Al-Ain.

International Conference on Renewable Energy: Generation and Applications (ICREGA'10) organized United Arab Emirates (UAE) University, one of the leading Universities in UAE. The conference was held in Al-Ain, UAE this year from March 8th to 10th. Control Application Research Group (CARG) of BRAC University had submitted one of their research papers. To the consequence of that, Marzia Alam was privileged to attend that conference and present the paper. ICREGA conference is mainly sponsored by Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Authority (ADWEA) and IEEE with a joint collaboration with UAE University to provide an excellent platform to share the advanced technological expertise in the field of renewable energy and development for knowledge exchange between researcher, scientist, academicians and engineers. Marzia Alam was accompanied by her other two co-authors, Md. Raied Hasan and Raquib Ahmed who are the final year student of EEE Department, BRAC University. Participant from other countries were from India, Iran, Poland, Singapore, UK. The opening of the ICREGA'10 was chaired by Dr. Lawrence L. Kazmerski, Executive Director, Science and Technology Partnership National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Golden, Colorado, USA.

IEEE INFOCOM 2010 Conference

Nazmus Saquib attended the IEEE INFOCOM 2010 conference held in San Diego, CA, USA from 15th to 19th March to present the Demo Paper, "ViSiM: A MANET Routing Simulation Demonstration Tool for Naive Users", by Nazmus Saquib, Md. Sabbir Rahman Sakib, Al-Sakib Khan Pathan. IEEE INFOCOM is a highly rated (Rank 1) conference of Communication Society. Distinguished researchers of various countries participated in the conference and enlightened it with their new ground-breaking ideas, analysis, modeling and results that enriched the spectrum of modern research in the arena of Wireless Communication. It was an honor and privilege to represent BRAC University and Bangladesh in such a prestigious conference. IEEE INFOCOM 2010 was chaired by Dr. Giridhar Mandyam, Vice President of Technology, Qualcomm Internet Services, USA.

Journal Publication

A Journal from School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) in March 2010:

[1]. C.Basak, C.M.I.Hussain and A.M Azad*, IEEE Member "Reliability Improvement for DPDC SCADA Communication Systems" Journal of Energy and Power Engineering, Jan. 2010, Volume 4, No.1 (Serial No.26) Journal of Energy and Power Engineering, ISSN 1934-8975, USA

Conference Publication

These are the following conference Publications from School of Engineering and Computer Science (SECS) in March 2010

[1] M. Alam, M. R. Hasan, R. Ahmed and A. Azad, "Output Power Improvement of Photovoltaic Cell Using Automatic Sun Tracking System", Proceedings of International Conference of Renewable Energy: Generation and Application 2010, Al-Ain, UAE

[2] M. Hossain, E. Mohith and A. Azad, "Solar Home Systems in Bangladesh - A case study in Gazipur, Kpasia", Proceedings of International Conference of Renewable Energy: Generation and Application 2010, Al-Ain, UAE

[3] S. Sadrin, M. Hossain, E. Mohith and A. Azad, "Alternative Solar Water Heater for Domestic Purpose", Proceedings of International Conference of Renewable Energy: Generation and Application 2010, Al-Ain, UAE

[4] Nazmus Saquib, Md. Sabbir Rahman Sakib, and Al-Sakib Khan Pathan, "Demo Abstract: ViSiM, A MANET Routing Simulation Demonstration Tool for Naive Users", The 29th IEEE Conference on Computer Communications (IEEE INFOCOM 2010), San Diego, USA. [Demo Paper]- Presented on 17th march 2010

[5] Md. Sabbir Rahman Sakib, Nazmus Saquib, and Al-Sakib Khan Pathan, "A New Visual Simulation Tool for Performance Evaluation of MANET Routing Protocols", The International Conference on Algorithms and Architectures for Parallel Processing (ICA3PP 2010), South Korea.

[6] Nazmus Saquib, Md. Sabbir Rahman Sakib, Apurba Saha and Mustafa Hussain, "Free Space Optical Connectivity For Last Mils Solution In Bangladesh", accepted to ICETC 2010 - The Second International Conference on Education Technology and Computer, Shanghai, China.

SPH Update

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

MPH PROGRAM

Courses

The course Anthropological Approaches to Public Health (MPH 512) was held from February 21 - March 4, 2010. The course was taught by Dr. Ria Rheis and Dr. Nasima Selim, and assisted by Alicia Diaz.

The course Qualitative Research Methods (MPH 511) was held from March 7 - 20, 2010. The course was taught by Dr. Sabina F Rashid and Dr. Nasima Selim, and assisted by Tisa Muhaddes, from the School.

BANGLADESH HEALTH WATCH 2010

Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW) launched their third report titled: "How Healthy is Health Sector Governance in Bangladesh?" on February 13, 2010. The report was launched by Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Kumar Sen. Prof. (Dr.) Syed Modasser Ali, Adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister, Health & Family Welfare and Social Welfare Affairs and Dr. Capt. (Rtd) Mozibur Rahman Fakir, Honorable State Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh, were also present as Special Guests. The launch was chaired by Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue. After the launch the key findings of the report was presented by BHW working group member Dr. Md. Khairul Islam.

Preceding the launch, Bangladesh Health Watch also organized a Press Conference at the National Press Club on February 13, 2010. The Press Conference was chaired by Professor Rounaq Jahan, chair of BHW Advisory Committee Members. The key findings of the report were presented by Bangladesh Health Watch Working Group Member Dr. Md. Khairul Islam. All the Working Group Members of BHW and the authors of the primary report of the study were also present at the press conference and answered the queries made by the journalists.

ACADEMIC STUDY GROUPS (ASG)

For the March ASG, a documentary was screen titled "Stop Genocide" by Zahir Raihan in commemoration of the Independence Day of Bangladesh. The screening was followed by a lively group discussion among SPH faculty and staff.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director, gave a series of three lectures at Heidelberg University in March 13-18, 2010. The first lecture was on BRAC as a NGO, and the background of JPGSPH. The second lecture was on Leadership and Change Management. The final and third lecture was on Changes and Trends in Health Systems in Developing Countries.

Dr Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director, on a recent visit to Ottawa attended meetings at IDFC, CIDA, and Health Canada for possible funding on air pollution and health. The meetings ran from March 22-25, 2010.

Dr Sabina F Rashid, Associate Professor and MPH Coordinator, attended a global public health meeting at Columbia University from March 2-4, 2010. The meeting was organized by the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

Dr. Dina Siddiqi, Visiting Scholar and Coordinator of Sexuality Network, spoke at a panel discussion on International Women's Day at ULAB on March 18, 2010.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS MARCH 2010

Dr Anwar Islam, Associate Dean and Director, published two articles in New Age. One article was title 'Mental Health and the Health System: A neglected Domain' and the other one titled 'Serving the Mentally Ill: Integrated community-based approach needed'.

Dr. Dina Siddiqi, Visiting Scholar and Coordinator of Sexuality Network, published two articles in New Age. One article appeared in their special supplement for International Women's Day on March 8, 2010 titled 'Historicizing the Borkha'. The other appeared in their Independence Day supplement on March 26, 2010, titled 'Political Culture in Bangladesh'.

NEW STAFF MARCH 2010

Nadia Nishrat Alamgir joined the School as a Senior Research Associate. A previous graduate from the School's MPH Programme, she recently worked as a Research Fellow at Health Systems and Infectious Diseases Division of ICDDR,B. In addition to her MPH degree, she has an Honors and Masters in Economic and Health Economics respectively. Her areas of interest are health, poverty, and health economics.

TLC Update

Seminar on "Counseling in our daily life"

On 1st march, 2010 Teaching Learning Center (TLC) of BRAC University organized a seminar on "Counseling in our daily life". P. K. Saru (Psychotherapist and Director, ASHA Counseling and Training Center, India) on her speech said that now a day's globalization, multicultural interaction etc. makes our life stressful and conflicted and we became stuck. We can't understand what we should do and where we need to go. To overcome those crises, sometimes we need professional help like counseling. She explained the process of counseling and why counseling is necessary for us. She also focused on our early childhood that is the crucial time to shape our basic personality. Counselor can help us to reshape our personality by resolve our childhood sufferings. She quoted that counseling is 'Healing Past at Present for Effective Future. Acting Vice Chancellor Mr. Golam Samdani Fakir, at his speech said that now a day we need professional help to get relief from our life hazard. He introduces the counseling unit to all. Dr. Shamim F. Karim (Chairperson, Department of psychology, University of Dhaka) on her speech gave importance on to set up counseling unit at academic environment. Dr. Mehtab Khanam (Professor, Department of psychology, University of Dhaka) shared her experiences about counseling. She also gave importance to make aware both parents and students for their mental health and mental growth. She also asked students to come for professional help if they needed and overcome the stigma. She specially gave thanks to BRAC University to create counseling opportunity for their students.

Student Affairs Update

BUHF (BRAC University Heritage Forum)

Celebrating International Mother Language Day

Heritage Forum arranged another program in 26th March to celebrate the Independence Day by convey flowers in National Memorial. We started from BU campus at 8.30 am and reached at 9.30 am. We were in

the rally for 3 hours and convey flowers to the National Memorial. BRAC University Heritage Forum celebrated the event successfully.

FCBU (Football Club of BRAC University)

Grand final of the "Intra BRAC University Football Tournament 2010"

Amidst a lot of expectation the final of the Intra BRAC University Football Tournament 2010 was held in the BAF Shaheen College field on 17th March, 2010. The chief guest of the program was the honorable Acting Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Md. Golam Samdani Fakir. He was also accompanied by the Registrar and the Director of the BRAC Business School. The match was played between the defending champions spring 07' and Spring 08'. Spring07' created history by once again winning the tournament by 1-0. Tanzil being the lone scorer who also won the man of final, man of the tournament and jointly winning the highest goal scorers trophy with Maruf of Spring 08'. The environment of the field was totally electric with crowds buzzing the ground. All the volunteers and the member of FCBU (Football Club of BRAC University) worked really hard to make this tournament another success and we hope to see more of them in the coming years.

Computer Club (BUCC) Activities

Programming Training Workshop

The starting workshop for Programming training for ACM programming competitions was held on March 6, 2010 at 2pm in UB 1125. It was conducted by Mr. Shahriar Rouf Nafi, a two-time world finalist of ACM Programming Contest. 16 students attended the workshop. Annajiat Alim Rasel, faculty member of the BRACU CSE Department and also the club advisor was present during the event. The workshop focused on how it would continue throughout the year and provided several hours of practical training. The follow up can be done via <http://groups.google.com/group/buacm>.

Workshop on Web Design and Development using PHP

On 6th, 13th and 20th of March 2010 PHP were continued during 11am to 2pm in UB1125. The event is being conducted with anecdotes discussing small stories on success and web development. Participants are learning how to create their webpages, twitter pages, and using NetBeans IDE to develop web pages etc. The workshop touched HTML, CSS, Java Script, PHP and is building up the participants from the ground level. The workshop is being conducted jointly by Hasin Hayder (Founder, Leevio), NHM Tanveer Hasan (IT Director, Tasawr), and Emran Hasan (Co-founder & CTO at Right Brain Solution Ltd and a BRACU Alumni). All 3 are successful entrepreneurs. Follow up of the workshop is available at <http://groups.google.com/group/buccphp>. The conductors aim to bring in more CEOs, CTOs, Directors and entrepreneurs to inspire the students including people from BdJobs.com.

Participation in South Asia Regional Collaboration on IT Enabled Services (ITES 2010)

On 10th of March 2010, three persons from the Computer Club (BUCC) attended GDLN video conference on IT Enabled Services. They are Mahbub Zaman Ananda (09301004), Md. Eftakhairul Islam Rain (09221175, 07310001) and Annajiat Alim Rasel (Advisor, BUCC). Other participants included Mr. Tarique M Barkatullah, (Senior System Analyst of Bangladesh Computer Council [BCC]), A.N.M. Safiqul Islam (Deputy Secretary and Project Director at Hi-Tech Park Project, Ministry of Science & ICT), and Mr. Fokhuz Zaman (CTO & Co Founder, Millennium Information Solution Ltd).

Organized Seminar on AloAshbei.com with GrameenPhone and Microsoft



On 11th of March 2010 (Thursday), a technical seminar on Alo-Ashbei.com by Microsoft Bangladesh and Grameenphone was organized by Computer Club (BUCC). AloAshbei is a platform for IT students, experts and small organizations to show their creativity in designing mobile applications. They can use the tools available on this site and create not just their ideas, but also create a community through sharing technical specifications and collaborating on a similar platform. This also aims to encourage technology entrepreneurship and enhancing mobile technology. For further details, please visit

<https://www.aloashbei.com.bd/AboutUs.aspx>. The seminar was held in

UB 18th floor, GDLN Video Conference Room. The 2 hours long session was structured in this way, first the event was opened with a brief introduction from Annajiat Alim Rasel (Advisor, BUCC and Junior Lecturer, CSE), followed by a technical presentation on AloAshbei platform by project team, then Mr. Omi Azad (Developer Evangelist, Microsoft) discussed student benefits under AloAshbei from Microsoft. Then an

interactive and interesting discussion was held between the participants and the project team on issues like price model, tutorials and intellectual property rights (IPR) etc. The event was closed by Prof Dr Mumit Khan, Chairperson, CSE Department. More than 60 students have participated in this seminar. Refreshments, bags and gifts were distributed during and after the event. Other faculty members like Abdur Rahman Adnan, Md Shamsul Kaonain, and Bushra Tawfiq Chowdhury were also present during the event.

Spreading out Google Summer of Code 2010

On 21st March 2010, BUCC invited students to participate in Google Summer of CodeTM which aims to engage new developers with open source development programs, introduce students to real life software development process like distributed development, software licensing, etiquettes of mailing list etc, create open source codes and open to all etc. Google will be accepting application from the students between March 29th and April 9th. Further details are available at <http://socghop.appspot.com>.

Organized workshop on Software Quality Assurance & Testing

On 27th of March 2010 (Saturday), Young Entrepreneurs Association for SMEs (YEAS) Forum in collaboration with the Computer Club (BUCC) organized a workshop on Software Quality Assurance (SQA) and Testing. The objective of the workshop is to improve the knowledge of young software development professional and entrepreneurs about the quality assurance and testing software. The workshop aims to make Young software developers understand about the quality control, improvement of Quality of local software, building capacity of trainees to handle the trouble shooting of making world class software. About 20 young software developers, ICT Entrepreneurs and about 40 students showed their interest to participate. The workshop is being conducted by Mr. Tahmid Munaz who is a Quality Assurance and Software Testing Practitioner and will be the speaker for this session. He is a member of SQABD (www.sqabd.com). Currently he is a QA Manger at BRAC Bank Ltd. His LinkedIn profile is <http://www.linkedin.com/in/munaz>. The inauguration was done in the Conference room, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI), House 20, Road 5, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212. The consequent classes will be held at BRAC University. The first day of the workshop started at 5pm and continued till about 9pm. Refreshments were served in courtesy of BEI.

Seminar on "Anti smoking and drug using"

On 21st March 2010 MONON, BUEC and MANAS arrange a seminar on 'Anti smoking and anti drug'. Drug is a poison that is capable of destroying a civilization, an outrageous flame that grasping the young generation. To aware the youth about the devastating effect of drug addiction, MONON (a club of BRAC University) arranges their campaign on Anti-Drug Day widely every year since 2007. Professor Dr. Arup Ratan Chowdhury (founder director of MANAS), made clear the physiological affect of smoking on our body. He gives emphasis that drug addiction started from smoking and it fetches us towards drug using. He explains how smoking influences our body mechanisms and we became dependent on it. Now a day, women also become very much used to with smoking and drug using. Smoking destroys each part of our body. He points out some reasons for smoking like curiosity, peer pressure, uncomfortable feelings and watch celebrity on films smoking. A huge number of rural man and women are used to 'pan', 'jarda' etc. which has same affect as smoking. For all kind of addiction three major components are responsible: psychological, physiological and social. He insists all to "Say No to Drugs". Honorable state minister for health and family welfare, Captain (retd.) DR. Mujibor Rahman Fakir said that anti smoking and anti drug campaign have to be started from each family. He expresses his fear that many bright people became engaged with drug. It could not be stopped by law only; we have to be socially aware and make a social movement all together. On that seminar he puts a message to all 'No More Nicotine, Take Raw Tea and Keep Your Self from Cancer'. Acting Vice chancellor Professor Golam Samdani Fakir started his speech by informed all that BRAC University already announced the campus as anti smoking zone and they consider zero tolerance about smoking. He quoted a cartoon from 'unmad' that one of the drug user's fathers keep tensed for his addicted son and he also became addicted after 10 years unfortunately. He tries to make us realize the scenario in terms of drug addiction. To bring to an end of drug addiction, he emphasis on make stronger our family bondage instead of money, name and fame. He thinks that the power of Family bondage is stronger than the power of nicotine or alcohol or any king of substance. He also said that we have to work together for make both user and non-user group about drug using and to stop the business of drug.

Career Services Update

Job update of March 2010

Farhan Monzur Khan Grow n Excel
Raisul Islam Nabil Qubee
Md. Shafiqul Alam Qubee
Md. Monsurul Ahsan Eastern Bank Ltd.
Hasan Sameer bracNet
Rajib Kumar Chanda Qubee
Md. Moniruzzaman Qubee
Shamim Ahmed Prime Bank Ltd.
Md. Arifur Rahman Prime Bank Ltd.
Snigdha Iqbal Summit Power Ltd.

BRACU students secured part-time jobs in bracNet

Mehrin Hossain
Abdullah Al Faruk
Md. Nazmul Hoque Bhuiyan
Shaolin Akter
Shaka Chowdhury
Muntasir Mamun
Badrunnesa Putul
Mohammed Mahbubul Haque

Seminar on "Manners & Etiquette"

A seminar on "Manners & Etiquettes" took place in UB 0223 on 31 March 2010 at 5-00 PM. The keynote speaker was Mr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar, BRACU. A number of 50 students attended the session and the seminar ended with an interactive question and answer round.