

2006/july

Fund Raising Film Show by Oikos Dhaka

Oikos Dhaka, an International Student Organization for Sustainable Economics and Management, in collaboration with the Film Club of BU, launched a four-day long fund raising event for cancer treatment of an eleven-year-old child Labib. Labib is a blood cancer patient admitted in DMCH and needs bone marrow transplantation. BU students organized film shows on July 18,19,20,24, 2006 and raised 30,000 taka for Labib's treatment. A group of twelve students of BU went to Dhaka Medical College Hospital to hand over the cheque to Labib's mother on July 29, 2006. Faculty Adviser of Oikos and Lecturer of ESS, Moshahida Sultana was also present at that time.

Oikos Organized Seminar on Solar Revolution

Oikos Dhaka organized a seminar on "Solar Revolution - Scopes of Renewable Energy Technology for Bangladesh." on July 25, 2006. Dr. Sajed Kamal, Adjunct Professor of Brandeis University and an expert in solar energy was the speaker. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU, Zaheed Hasan Mahmud, Associate Professor of Applied Physics and Electronics and Communications Engineering, Dhaka University, Sudip Saha of BRAC Solar Energy were the guests at the seminar. Moshahida Sultana, Lecturer of Economics and Faculty Adviser of Oikos Dhaka also attended the seminar and participated in the discussion. After the talk, students and faculty of BU discussed about awareness creation and the scope of developing a solar energy project by BU students.

Pre-Advising, Fall 2006

The on-line Pre-Advising for Fall 2006 semester started on July 24, 2006.

ENH Student Received International Poetry Award

Sanam Amin, sophomore student, Department of ENH recently attended the 20th International Poetry Convention held in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA from July 20-23, 2006. She was awarded the International Society of Poets' Achievement Award for her poem 'The Narcotized Idol'.

Workshop on Tagore's Song

Eminent singer Sadi Mohammad conducted a workshop on Tagore's Song for the members of cultural club. After that a Jalsha on 'Rabindranather Barshar Gaan' was arranged at indoor games room on 20 July 2006.

ESS Seminar

The Department of ESS, BU organized a seminar on "Valuing the Impact of Diarrhoea on Child Health in Slums: Evidence on Water and Sanitation" on July 19, 2006. Md. Jahangir Alam, Lecturer, Department of ESS was the presenter.

Midterm Exams, Summer 2006

Midterm Exams of Summer 2006 started on July 17, 2006 and finished on July 19, 2006. During the week, classes and other regular activities were also held as per schedule.

BUFC Continues to Screen Films

BU Film Club (BUFC) had a general meeting on July 17, 2006. A good number of members were present in the meeting and some major decisions were taken about the future film shows at Mohakhali and Savar campus, facilities for BUFC members and configuration of an organizing committee. The meeting was followed by a film show. The club screened the film "Sonar Kella", written and directed by the eminent filmmaker Satyajit Ray in 1974. BUFC screened the film 'Phone Booth' on July 30, 2006, directed by Joel Schumacher, this film was released in 2003.

School of Business Seminar

School of Business, BU organized a seminar on "Strategic Thinking and Planning" on July 12, 2006 by Peter Connell. Peter is here in Dhaka to work with the Social Marketing Company (SMC) on the third and final leg of their next five-year strategic plan. He knows Bangladesh well, having first worked here way back in 1992 and he also lived in Dhaka between 1997 and 2000 when he was Chief of Party of USAID's Urban Family Health Partnership.

Bizbee Seminar

A seminar on "Time Management", organized by BizBee (Business Club) was held on July 11, 2006. Dr. Golam Samdani Fakir, Director, Training, BRAC conducted the seminar. He made the session really interesting as well as informative for the 30 BizBee members who were present there. The morale of this seminar was: "Managing time is nothing but managing life". BizBee decided to facilitate more sessions like this in near future.

ENH Seminars

1. Colette Morrow, Fulbright Scholar, Associate Professor of English, Purdue University and Member of the National Women's Studies association, gave a seminar on "Contemporary Chicana Writing: Issues and Debates" on July 12, 2006. It was a lively talk and students and teachers of the department were enlightened by this introduction to a new form of women's writing.

Colette Morrow also took a special class on Toni Morrison for students of ENG 366: Major texts of the feminist tradition in the West on July 24, 2006.

2. David A. Peterson, of the Linguistics and Cognitive Sciences Program on Dartmouth College gave a talk on "A Typological Overview of the Indigenous Languages of the Chittagong Hill Tracts". The Department of English and Humanities and the Centre for Research on Bangla Language Processing jointly organized this event on July 23, 2006. Students and researchers in both departments as well as members of BRAC RED attended the talk. It may be noted that Naira Khan, Lecturer ENH and Researcher, CRBLP works very closely with Professor Peterson.

3. Ruhma Khalil Choudhury Lecturer ENH and Doctoral Student, Teacher's College, Columbia University USA gave a talk entitled "Is English a neutral beneficial and pragmatic language?" on July 26, 2006. The talk debated the status of English as a global language, bringing historical and theoretical issues related to language. Students and teachers highly appreciated the work that Ruhma is engaged in.

VC Visits Universities

Professor J R Choudhury, VC, BU, visited Monash University, Melbourne, Australia to attend a "Research Conference on the practice of e-government and e-governance: the South Asian experience" as a prominent contributor and Swinburne University of Technology, Victoria, Australia to attend the Graduation Ceremony and Congratulatory Dinner from June 22-July 05, 2006. He also visited University of New South Wales,

Sydney, University of Queensland, Brisbane and Griffith University, Brisbane and had meetings with Deans, Pro- Vice Chancellors and senior University Officials and Faculty members. The possibilities of collaboration in offering various joint degree programs, exchange of faculty and students were also discussed."

Residential Semester (RS) Update

Sports Competitions

Inter-Dorm Sports Competitions of the RS Summer 2006 started with football competition and ended with athletics on July 31, 2006. The following events were held: Football, Handball, Cricket, Volleyball, Carom, Table Tennis, and Athletics.

RS Dinner

The 2nd RS Dinner was held on July 12, 2006 Mr. Mehbubur Rahman, Deputy General Manger of the Commercial Bank of Ceylon was the Guest of Honour. He spoke to the students about career building and importance of English in the present day environment.

Wall Article

The 3rd and 4th issues of Wall Article were hung on July 18 and 25, 2006 respectively. All six dorms participated in the competition. Krishnochura was adjudged champion and Maloncho along with Nikunjo were the runners up.

Micro-lab Exercise

The third phase of the Micro-lab Exercise of the Residential Semester was conducted on July 15, 2006. 67 students took part in this unique exercise. The students performed the duties of TARC officials and staff starting from the In-Charge down to cleaners and laundry persons. The exercise created a lot of enthusiasm among the students and was conducted successfully.

BRAC Project Visit

The third phase of BRAC Project Visit of the Residential Semester was made on July 15, 2006. The third phase visit was made to Manikgonj and Gazipur. The students were divided section wise. The students were assigned one subject to look into in depth and later submit a report on the visit and give a presentation. The subjects were BRAC Micro-Credit Program, BRAC Health Program, BRAC Education Program and Legal and Human Rights Program.

Museums Visit

46 students went for a visit to Liberation War Museum at Segun Bagicha, Dhaka on July 15, 2006. Following the visit of the museum, the students sat for a quiz test on the liberation war of Bangladesh. The visit generated much enthusiasm and fervour among the students. After the Liberation War Museum students visited National Museum at Dhaka and the National Memorial at Savar.

Presentation on Music of Bangladesh

Renowned vocalists Sadi Mohammad and Fatematuz Zohra gave a presentation on the music of Bangladesh. They gave a resume on the development of music in Bangladesh and also rendered a number of songs.

Quiz Competitions

Phase 1 and 2 of inter-dorm quiz competitions were conducted successfully on July 22 and 30, 2006. Krishnochura became champion and Chhayaneer runner up.

El-Pro Co-Curricular Activities

El-Pro organized two weekend programs on July 21-22 and July 28-29, 2006. The programs were a great success. They generated tremendous enthusiasm among students and also helped them to discover their inner talents.

The Programs for July 28, 2006 were: Debate final in the morning. Exhibition of items produced by the students in the afternoon. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-VC, BU, inaugurated the exhibition. In the evening students staged an English play. The program for July 28, 2006 ended with a Dinner.

HR Director of Unilever, Mr. Dinesh Bidapen and CEO of Bdjobs, Mr. Fahim Mansoor conducted workshop on

July 29, 2006.

SPH Update

Course Update

The MPH students successfully completed the course "Health Systems Management" during the period of June 18- July 13, 2006. The course was taught by visiting faculty Dr. Anwar Islam, formerly with CIDA and currently with Management Sciences for Health, USA. Dr. Golam Samdani Fakir of BRAC took part in teaching leadership training.

Faculty Update

Dr. Md. Laskar Shawkatuzzaman has joined as a Senior Research Associate with the Research Team of the School. He is a medical doctor and holds a PhD from Yamaguchi University, Japan in Social Medicine with a focus in occupational health. Dr. Mizanur Rashid Shuvra has returned from a 3-week course (19th Residential Summer Course) offered by the European Educational Program on Epidemiology in Florence, Italy from June 29 - July 14, 2006. Dr. Shuvra described the course to be an excellently coordinated course that offers advanced epidemiology and biostatistics.

BUCC won prizes in TeleMpaid'06

BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC) won two prizes among the top ten in Olympiad, TeleMpaid'06. 5 Students from CSE department participated in the Olympiad in this midterm week. They are Annajiat Alim Rasel [Id: 04101017, Secretary, BUCC], Fuad Hussain [Id: 02201009], Md. Intekhab Al Hafiz [Id: 05101021], Shoman Bhuiyan [Id: 02201046] and Khan Md. Anwarus Salam [Id: 04301025]. Annajiat Alim Rasel was ranked 8th and Fuad Hussain was ranked 10th. It may be noted that NSU arranged TeleMpaid'06 on July 5-6, 2006. This event was the first of its kind and it measured skills in 4 different areas - Wireless/Cellular Networking, Circuits & Electronics, Physics and Mathematics. About 60 participants from different educational institutes participated in the event.

ENH Faculty Members Attended International Conference

Shaheena Choudhury and Tania Khan, Lectures in the Department of ENH attended the Annual International Teachers for English Conference titled "English Without Borders", in Ashgabat, Turkeministan from June 30 - July 02, 2006. . Educators from 13 countries participated in this event. Presentations included posters sessions, panel discussions, papers and workshops/discussions. Shaheena and Tania presented papers on "Fostering the practice of communicative competence in ESL classrooms" and "Techniques used to teach grammar in Bengali and English medium schools" respectively. Both papers were well received. Additionally, Shaheena represented Bangladesh in a special panel discussion on English Language teaching. The US government funded the conference. All expenses were covered by the American Center, Dhaka.

ARC Update

Arch.KIDS Workshop 3

The third workshop of Arch.KIDS, an outreach program of the Department of Architecture was held on July 15, 2006 at the Kendriya Kachi Kanchar Mela, Dhaka focusing on the theme "Amar Shopner Shohor" or My Dream City. Architect Ahsanullah Mojumder who is actively associated with the organization coordinated this event. The workshop which dealt with creating awareness among kids about a healthy urban living environment, was conducted by Dr. Q M Mahtab-uz-Zaman, coordinator, Arch.KIDS, Dr. Zainab F. Ali, Director Student Affairs, Omar Faruk, graduate student, Disaster Management and Huraera Jabeen, lecturer. Student volunteers from Architecture and English Departments helped in running the program. Thirty children, who are members of Kachi Kanchar Mela, participated in the workshop with great enthusiasm and participation. They painted pictures and built models of their ideas of an ideal Dhaka city. Later a certificate giving ceremony was held on 21 July 2006 with the presence of the Mr. Khondoker

Ibrahim Khaled, Director, Kendriya Kachi Kanchar Mela, Dr. Zaman, Architect Mojumder and guardians of Arch.KIDS Workshop-3 members. The Kendriya Kachi Kanchar Mela and BU jointly sponsored the workshop. It has been decided that a workshop will be arranged every month to cover all 250 Kachi Kanchar Mela centers in the country.

Arch.KIDS Workshop 4

The fourth workshop of Arch.KIDS, an outreach program of the Department of Architecture was held on July 28, 2006 at the Amdala Govt. Primary School, Mankiganj focusing on the theme-"My Dream School Garden". Hasibul Kabir, Lecturer, Department of Architecture coordinated this special event for the kids of Amdala village with an objective of promoting awareness of having a school garden. The program was jointly organized by the Dept. of Architecture, BU Environmental Awareness Forum & ShaDa [An NGO Shamajik Daybodhdhotta working with corporate social responsibility] and was conducted by Huraera Jabeen, Hasibul Kabir, Nesfun Nahar Nipa, Rahat Mujib Niaz, Tanzia Sharmin lecturer of the Department of Architecture and Omar Faruk, graduate student, Disaster Management. Headmaster, teachers of Amdala Govt. Primary School, student volunteers from Architecture, English and MGB Departments helped in running the program. Twenty children ranging from class II to V participated in the workshop with great enthusiasm. Hasibul Kabir initiated the workshop with a visual presentation on importance of gardening, types of trees and their maintenance and children painted their ideas of dream school garden. Later they planted about 60 plants in their school garden. There will be a certificate giving ceremony on Friday 04 August 2006.

Angan Event 39

On July 20, 2006 Angan organized its 39th event titled "West Kowloon Cultural District, Hong Kong' by Iftexhar Ahmed, lecturer, Architecture Department. The project when implemented is expected to achieve the status of a world icon. Mr. Ahmed discussed the proposals with slide and video presentations on the themes, models and drawings of the seven different entries from renowned firms. The lecture gave the students a new exposure to the large-scale master planning, architectural and structural designs as well as impressive architectural presentation techniques including intricately detailed out models. Teachers and students of the Department of Architecture attended the event.

Event 40

An Angan studio lecture titled "'The Power of Architecture and the Architecture of Power in Colonial South Asia" was presented by Sajid Haq, Ph.D. scholar, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Columbia University, USA at the Department of Architecture on July 24, 2006. Mr. Haq talked about how the historical events in subcontinent and socio-political thinking of the colonizers had shaped the architecture in the colonial South Asia. He is a visiting fellow at the Department of ESS, BU. Teachers from Departments of Architecture & ESS and students of the department of architecture attended the interactive event.

Exhibition 2006

The Department of Architecture held its 'Annual Exhibition 2006' of student projects from July 16-20, 2006. Studio projects from all semesters were exhibited in the lobbies and studios. Guardians of BU, architecture students and students from different architecture schools visited the exhibition.

Chairperson Represents Bangladesh in Geneva

Professor Fuad Mallick, Chairperson, Department of Architecture attended and represented Bangladesh at a two-day workshop on Architectural Education held in Geneva, Switzerland on July 20-21, 2006. Organized by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) the workshop was the introductory event of a survey on Architectural Education in Islamic Societies sponsored by the trust. Representatives from 11 countries attended the workshop.

Faculty Presents Keynote Paper

Dr. Q M Mahtab-uz-Zaman, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture presented a keynote paper on "Sustainable Open-Built Ratio' for Dhaka City" at the Public Seminar on Building Regulation for Dhaka City organized by Rotary Club of Dhaka at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, held on July 16, 2006.

Guest lecture on Rabindra Sangeet and Nazrul Geeti

As part of ARC 293: Music Appreciation course, eminent singer Sadi Mahommed delivered a demonstration lecture on Rabindra Sangit on July 5 2006 at the Department of Architecture. He explained various phases

of Rabindra Sangeet and a range of influences on the songs of Tagore by demonstrating them with his harmonious voice. Kharul Anam Shakil also delivered another demonstration lecture on Nazrul Geeti on July 26, 2006. He talked about the origin, history, types and various influences of more than 4000 songs written and composed by our national poet Qazi Nazrul Islam.

Faculty Attended World Urban Forum in Vancouver

Ms. Yasmin Ara, lecturer, Department of Architecture attended the 3rd World Urban Forum in Vancouver, Canada from June 19-23, 2006. She was invited by UN-Habitat and KULeuven (Katholieke Universiteit of Leuven) to join the conference. Ms Yasmin presented a paper titled "Inner City Densification in Dhaka: The Forgotten Need of Open Space" in the KULeuven Alumnus Workshop held in Gage Towers, University of British Columbia. After attending the World Urban Forum she returned on July 01, 2006.

Rtv Featured BU ARC Studio Works

Rtv featured BU Architecture Department studio works in a program called "GrihoShoily". Besides showing the student works on July 12 2006 at 8:50 pm. Rtv also featured interviews of teachers and students of ARC.

Research Outcome Published

'Current alert of Basin - South Asia', a regional knowledge platform, published the research outcome of the ongoing research on Housing of the Ultra Poor in Bangladesh done by lecturer Mr. Khondaker Hasibul Kabir and Professor Fuad H Mallick. It's a joint research supported by the Department of Architecture of BU and Research and Evaluation Division (RED) of BRAC.

(<http://www.devalt.org/taranet/websitepages/basinSaDefault.aspx?catalogid=133>)

Detail of the paper, Dynamic Vernacular: Outdoor Spaces in the Homesteads of the Ultra Poor, is available in the link: <http://devalt.org/taranet/Websitepages/GenericLayoutBasin.aspx?CatalogID=4521>

Article by ARC Student Published in Newspaper

Karishma Mehjabeen Sabah, a student of Junior 2 of the Department of Architecture, has written two important articles in The Independent - 1) 'Dhaka city's Vanishing Greenery - No space for kite flying, no abundance of fresh air', 18 July 2006, page 6. 2) 'Enlightened leadership needed-Education in great disarray'- part 1 July 22, 2006, page 6; part 2 July 23, 2006, page 6.

Book Chapter Published

A book chapter, titled "In Search for a Habitable Urban Space-Built Ratio: A Case Study of Building and Planning Regulation in Dhaka City", written by Dr. Q M Mahtab-uz-Zaman, and co-authored by Professor Fuad H Mallick, A Q M Abdullah and Ar. Jalal Ahmed published on July 16, 2006 in Bay J H and Ong B L (eds.), Tropical Sustainable Architecture: Social and Environmental Dimensions, Architectural Press, Elsevier, UK.

ARC Faculty Received Honorary Acclamation

Dr. Q. M. Mahtab Uz Zaman and Khondoker Hasibul Kabir have received honorary mention in an open architectural design competition for the visitor center at Lawachara National Park, Srimongol.

Summer Internship at CRBLP

Thirteen Computer Science and Engineering students are taking advantage of the 3-month internship opportunity this summer to conduct research under the supervision of Center for Research on Bangla Language Processing (CRBLP) staff members. They are working on a large number of interesting topics, with some that are continuations of their semester projects in the Natural Language Processing (CSE-431) course offered in Spring 2006 semester. The resulting outputs of all the interns are expected to be of publishable quality, and will be submitted to at least one international conference. The interns are: Fahim Muhammad Hasan, M. Hammad Ali, Ayesha Binte Mosaddeque, Nafid Haque, Md. Jahangir Alam, Yeasir Arafat, Nizam Uddin, M. Abdur Rahman, Fahim Tawfique Chowdhury, Munirul Mansur, Munshi Asadullah, Annajiat Alim Rasel, and Salman Zaman.

BU-IED Director attends CREATE Meeting

Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Director, BU-IED, participated in the CREATE (Consortium for Research on Education Access, Transitions and Equity) planning meeting at University of Sussex, UK from June 25 - July 2, 2006. BU-IED is a member of the eight institution multi-country consortium.

ESS Faculty Receives Research Grant

Mohammad Jahangir Alam, Lecturer, ESS, got research grant in the 11th Biannual Research and Training Workshop which was organized by the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE) from December 14-18, 2005 in Sri Lanka on 'Valuing the Impact of Diarrhoea on Child Health in Slums: Evidence on Water and Sanitation'. I started my research work since March 01, 2006. I participated in the 12th Biannual Research and Training Workshop, which organized by SANDEE and UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme) Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP) from June 25 - July 1, 2006 at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand for presenting the pilot study output.

Paper Accepted

A paper titled "On the realization of asymmetric high radix signed digital adder using Neural Network" by Tofail Ahammad, B.Sc. (4th year) thesis student, BU, accepted in the Ninth Scandinavian Conference on Artificial Intelligence 2006 (SCAI 2006) [<http://www.stes.fi/scai2006/index.html>] to be held in the Helsinki University of Technology, Finland, on October 25-27, 2006. The conference will be co-organized by the Finnish Artificial Intelligence Society and by the Helsinki University of Technology. It may be noted that this work has also been accepted as the work in progress session in the Digital System Design conference [<http://www.sea.uni-linz.ac.at/euromicro2006/>].