

2007/september

BRACU - Institute of Educational Development (BU-IED)

"Be the spark, be a teacher" was the title of BRACU Faculty Orientation Workshop that was held in TARC-Savar on September 08-09, 2007. The Orientation aimed at contextualizing the new faculty of BRACU, with an effort of introducing them to the history of BRACU, its teaching philosophy, nature and backgrounds of the students who attend the university, what is generally expected of students and teachers, ways of planning, preparing and delivering the courses, and assessment and evaluation. The Orientation also covered some pedagogical aspects, such as different theories of learning, a variety of learning styles and teaching techniques and etc. Along with other core team members from BRACU, Jahirul Islam Mullick, Elizabeth Wickwire and Ali Md. Shahiduzzaman- three staff members of BU-IED participated in planning, designing, organizing and facilitating the Orientation.

BU-IED Director at Oxford Education Conference

Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Director of BU-IED, attended the United Kingdom Forum for International Education and Training (UKFIET) from 13 to 16 September, 2007. This is a biennial education forum held at Oxford University and attracts education specialists, policy-makers and practitioners from all over the world. Dr. Ahmed was invited to make a presentation on BU-IED's research work on access and participation in education undertaken collaboratively with institutions from UK, India, South Africa and Ghana. The five-year project under the auspices of the Consortium for Research on Educational Access, Transitions and Equity (CREATE) is funded by DFID. Dr. Ahmed also visited the Institute of Education at London University to discuss academic and research collaboration.

ECD Professional Degree Program, offered by BU-IED

The BU Academic Council gave its approval on Sep 12, 2007 to a proposal for Early Childhood Development (ECD) professional development program. This program is a joint collaboration of BU-IED, Columbia University and Open Society Institute in London. The program comprises a postgraduate certificate course, postgraduate diploma and a Master of Social Science in ECD. This will be the first ECD professional development program ever offered in Bangladesh. The academic council gave approval for the certificate course to start from January 2008. BRACU will proceed to obtain approval of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for the diploma and the masters courses.

Consultation on Operational Framework for Pre-primary Education

The representatives of the Early Childhood Development Resource Centre (ECDRC) of BU-IED participated at the consultation workshop on operational framework for pre-primary education in the context of ECD in Bangladesh organized by the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) on 12 September 2007. It should be mentioned that ECDRC serves as the secretariat of Bangladesh ECD Network and it prepared the draft of the operational policy framework for the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MOPME). The Chief Guest at the workshop was Mr. M. Musharraf Hossain Bhuyan, Secretary, MOPME. The Senior Assistant Chief, MOPME, Ms. Qurratul Ayen Safdar, presented the draft Operational Framework at the presence of approximately one hundred participants involved in different aspects of preschool education. Participants commented on the proposed framework and offered many suggestions to make an effective and realistic operational guideline for pre-primary education. Ms. Mahmuda Akhter, head of ECDRC, made remarks on behalf of Bangladesh ECD Network. A sharing session, incorporating all the suggestions that came from the participants, is planned to be organized shortly.

Department of Architecture

Chairperson attended conference at Northumbria University, UK

Prof Fuad H Mallick, Chairperson of Department of Architecture and Director of the Post Graduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM) attended and presented a paper titled 'Planning Sustainable Villages for Disaster Resilience in Bangladesh' in the 'Dealing with Disasters' conference held at Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK from 4 to 6 September 2007. On 7 September he attended a strategy meeting with the representatives from Northumbria and Katmundu Universities to discuss and plan the future of the DelpHE project that involves the three universities.

International Reviewer for Aga Khan Award for Architecture

Dr. Zainab Ali attended the Award ceremony of the 2007 cycle of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture held in Kuala Lumpur from 2 to 6 September 2007. Dr. Ali was an international technical reviewer for the Award program. Moumein Rise, a residential high-rise in Singapore, a project reviewed by her was one of the awarded projects.

Angan Lectures

On 10 September 2007 Dr. Salma Samar Damluji, an architect, historian and architectural educator based in London and Dr. Aydan Balamir, an architect, critic and Associate Professor at METU Turkey delivered lectures on "The Wadi Daw'an Project: Architectural Rehabilitation: and "Response to Culture, Climate and Site: The Dutch Embassy in Addis Ababa". Both projects are recipients of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture 2007. The event was attended by students, faculty members, architects and academicians.

Dr. Q M Mahtab-uz-Zaman's update at Cornell University

Dr. Q M Mahtab-uz-Zaman, Associate Professor of Department of Architecture, who is on leave in USA for Fulbright Fellowship, delivered the first lecture for the faculty and students of the Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University on 28 September 2007, on the topic: "Making a Sustainable City: Experience/Challenges/Crises & Emerging Theoretical Debates on Asian Cities". This is a part of the on-going teaching/research activities at the College of Architecture, Art and Planning under the Fulbright Senior Fellow Program 2007-2008.

Faculty left for higher education

Md Hafizul Hasan left for pursuing his PhD study at King's College London, UK on 22 September 2007. Mr. Hasan completed his MSc in Urban Environment Management (UEM) from the School of Environment, Resources & Development, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok in 2004. He has been working as lecturer at BRAC University for last six years.

Study Trip

Department of Architecture, BU, organized a study trip to Pubail for the students of the Senior III on 18 September 2007. The main objective of the trip was to let the students be familiar with the place, as they will do a design exercise on 'Remembering Tagore' at that site. Two design studio teachers Dr Zainab F Ali and Farhan Sirajul Karim accompanied the students on this daylong tour.

Department of Computer Science & Engineering

Student Attends a Workshop in China

Safiul Alam, a student from the department of Computer Science & Engineering participated in a Workshop on Modern Distance Education & Network Communication held in Jilin University, China in September. The workshop gave Saif a practical knowledge in how distance education is managed in China.

Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE)

On October 1st, 2007 ECE opened a new Lab located in UB 201

1. "This laboratory provides support for instruction and research in the areas of basic analog and Digital Logic Design (DLD), discrete component testing, fundamental circuit design, Digital Signal Processing (DSP), assembly language programming and communication theory. The lab utilizes various test equipment to include but not limited to oscilloscopes, signal generators, spectrum analyzer, DSO & logic analyzer, multi-meters and high speed data acquisition equipment and also Lab facilities include several PCs equipped with the latest MIDAS Engineering hardware and standard software package.
2. The telecommunication section is equipped with hardware and software to support a multitude of instructional and thesis/project activities on the broad area of analogue/digital communications, wireless and mobile communications. Lab facilities also include PCM analyzer/Frame analyzer, PCM performance analyzer and trainer for modulation and keying (e.g., PSK, FSK, ASK, QPSK etc).
3. This laboratory also emphasizes problem based learning and research and include servo control stations

(CA06, LJ Group) and associated computers (equipped with A/D and D/A data acquisition cards, Matlab/SIMULINK software and RTLinux for RTS) that are used to conduct simulations and physical experiments, modeling, analysis, and design of control systems.

Student Affairs Office (Co Curricular Activities)

Football Club (FCBU): Annual General Meeting and Ifter

Football Club of BRAC University arranged their Annual General Meeting which was followed by an Ifter party on 25th September, 2007 at BU-Cafeteria. Professor Iftexhar Ghani Choudhury, Dean, BRAC Business School and Dr. Zainab F Ali, Director, Student Affairs were present in the party. The Club's Advisor Mr. Suntu Kumar Ghosh, President Muhammad Abdul Hakim Shaon and Secretary Kazi Fayzur Rahman cordially attended the guests and the members of the club. It was decided that events such as Intra-University Tournament, Residential Camp, Playing outside of the University etc will be promoted.

Cricket Club: Annual general meeting and Iftar

The day began usually amidst a lot of expectations and hope. All the members of the cricket club were busy preparing for a successful session of talk and discussion with regard to various issues. With the usual discussion of the proper implications and establishments of the club, the talk of the table was the six-sided tournament that was decided to launch by the club. The overall response was terrific. Soon we realized the difference between planning and the application of an idea. All the members were busy sharing their idea and how to make the tournament a success. Fixing up the budget was a difficult task, as very few members actually knew about the budget issues. Our club relatively flooding by new comers who are very enthusiastic, but their ideas seemed very ambitious.

Finally it was decided that the tournament is will held in TARC, our own home ground of BRAC University. Each participating team has to pay TK 500 as their entry fee. From each semester only two teams can register. In total 16 teams will be participating, they will be divided into 4 groups each group consisting of 4 teams. Each team will be allowed to register only 9 players. Each team will be allowed to bowl only 6 over. There is going to be a time frame under which each team has to complete its bowling. In case of a failure in finishing their over in the stipulated time frame, teams will be penalized by the reduction of over. In the first round each team from each group will face each other. Best two teams from each group will qualify for the quarter finals. Then 2 semi-final matches will be played, after which the final will be held. In total 31 matches will be played within 5-6 days. Matches will be held every Friday and Saturday, just after the midterm week.

After the discussion we were glued to our plates. The Iftar took place and we temporarily forgot about the issues. In all we had a good and fruitful meeting. All the members were more or else satisfied with the outcome of the meeting.

BU Computer Club (BUCC):

BUCC receives 21 free Fedora media

BUCC has been trying to request free Fedora media for last couple of months and only this time we were able to fill up in time (time limit is 1 hour from opening)! We have been tracking webpage every 30mins 24/7. Within 30mins, the notice was sent to members. Congratulations prompt actors, 21 requests were submitted among which 6 made it to first eligible 100 applicants: Annajiat Alim Rasel, Shamim Ahmed, Md Intekhabul Hafiz, Md. Kowsar Hossain Akand, M. Abdur Rahman and Mehtab Iqbal.

More information can be found on:

<http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Distribution/FreeMedia/F7/September>, they were:

On Sun, Sep 9, 2007, Imtiaz Rahi who works for Grameen Solutions, being one of 3 Fedora Ambassadors for Bangladesh and one of 2 Fedora Free Media Program Contributors for Bangladesh, has kindly donated 21 DVDs for BUCC members who applied for it. He arrived at 5 pm, discussed about Linux distros, needs for local repositories, various Linux features and advised us to build our own repository at BRACU. Besides regular students, few BRACU alumni, two faculties (Hammad Ali and Sarwar Alam) were present during the event. The discussion continued till 6:30pm and ended with refreshments for the participants and guests.

Final 21 recipients were, Altaf Mahmud, Annajiat Alim Rasel, Choudhury Md. Zahid, Hammad Ali, Imran Ahmed, Khan Md. Anwarus Salam, Loban Rahman, M. Abdur Rahman, Mahdin Mahboob, Md Intekhabul Hafiz, Md. Kowsar Hossain Akand, MD. Nizam Uddin, Md.Sabbir Rahman Sakib, Meherun Nesa Faruque Pinky, Mehtab Iqbal, Mohibuzzaman Zico, Nur-UI-Arafat Shomik, Sarwar Alam, Shamim Ahmed, Supriyo Shafkat Ahmed, Tanjin Ahsan. Event pictures can be found at

<http://picasaweb.google.com/annajiat/Fedora7>

From BRAC University Computer Club (BUCC), we have successfully observed the Software Freedom Day (SFD) 2007 on Wednesday, September 19, 2007. We are registered at

<http://softwarefreedomday.org/bucclinux>. We are also enlisted in Bangladesh Open Source.

Network (BdOSN)'s SFD website,

http://softwarefreedomday.org/teams/bangladesh/SFD_Bangladesh2_Team. We managed to start SFD observation almost on time at 4pm, keeping 30 minutes distance from BRACU's end of office hours / classes to allow students to freshen themselves. There was a fair enough turnout of participants. There were about 20 participants. It included one guest, Sheikh Imtiaz Rahi and two of our faculties Abu Md. Hammad Ali and Sarwar Alam who encouraged participants greatly. It may noted that Sheikh Imtiaz Rahi is one of the three.

Software Freedom Day (SFD) 2007 at BRAC University (BRACU), Bangladesh

Fedora Ambassadors for Bangladesh and one of two Fedora Free Media Program Contributor for Bangladesh. The SFD observation was designed by taking small parts from many places of the FOSS world. There were Iftar for guests, participants and volunteers who worked for the event. Alhamdulillah, not only we could contribute to FOSS, also by providing Iftar (refreshments after fasting in Islam) in this religious month of Ramadan, we got further benefits. Iftar was served regardless of the religion of the participants. Discussions & demonstrations included following topics:

1. Volunteering for BdOSN activities (<http://bdosn.org>)
2. Contribution to FOSS support for users.
3. Templatized FOSS development to deliver cheaper & faster (efficient) solution in less time.
4. Red Hat scholarship & other grants for working with FOSS i.e. Natural Language Processing Winter School 2008, India, PAN Localization etc.
5. BUCC Software Repository having many FOSS media stored and Mumit Khan's declaration for reward to package auto-maintained Fedora.
6. Distribution of rest of the received donation of Fedora Free Media (Core 7) by Sheikh Imtiaz Rahi.
7. Sharing development experience using FOSS by Imtiaz Rahi, Abdur Rahman Adnan, Annajiat Alim Rasel and discussion on Firefox 2.0.0.7 (along with Sage, FireFTP, WML, AdBlockPlus, Tweaking memory leak), FileZilla , WinSCP, Mono, Apache, PHP, MySQL, and Servlet. Participants were shown how to access BRACU's student server running Fedora remotely, how put files, permissions and setup their webpages.
8. Upcoming workshops, call for Trainer, Volunteer, Project Development and workers. According to participants' interest, topics two workshops have been decided, they cover development using (a) MySQL & XML and (b) Java 2 EE Servlets.
9. Mailing list for FOSS: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bucclinux>

Event pictures have been uploaded to <http://picasaweb.google.com/annajiat/sfd07>

Film Club (BUFC)

Ramadan is going on and thus the activities of all the clubs are kind of down. Even the club fair is rescheduled. But when it comes to BRACU Film Club. We tried our best and we are successful with the two events that the club organized, On 22nd Sept, 2007, BRACU FC's executive bodies sat together to decide about the upcoming events and made some major decision regarding the welfare of the club. In this

meeting, the latest list of the films that needs to be updated was counted and several policies of the clubs were discussed about along with some changes and some required actions. All these were the aims of this meeting.

On 24th Sept. 2007, this semester's club activity was started by our dedicated members in TARC, Savar. The screened the movie "Daruchinir Deep" in Murculy Hall, TARC. The show was of complete success and almost every student, along with the dorm tutors and the new CS of TARC was present at the show. The whole show went without any flaw and was very much enjoyed by everyone and got a very positive respond. Such quick arrangement of the show in TARC really proved how dedicated our TARC Crews are for the club. They also arranged a lottery at the end of the show and the lucky winner was awarded with a DVD movie. On 27th Sept. 2007, our TARC Crew carried out a film survey to find out what most of the students would like to see. They went from rooms to rooms to carry out the survey and the most votes were received by comedy movies. On 27th Sept. 2007, BRACU FC arranged a film show CHILDREN OF HEAVEN in the Mohakhali Campus. This film was especially dedicated for the new students who got admitted to the university in this semester. The show received more than the expected viewers. Though Ramadan month is going on, BRACU FC tends to move on and thus these events are of great inspiration to the whole club.

EL-Pro

Participation in BELTA International Conference

Seven faculty members, ATM Sajedul Huq, AQM Khairul Basher, Shaheen Ara, Mousume Akhter Flora, Mithila Mahfuz, Liza Reshmin and Tanzina Halim, from the English Language Program (ELPro) presented papers in the 4th International BELTA (Bangladesh English Teacher's Association) Conference held on 7th and 8th October, 2007. The papers covered a wide range of areas of English Language Teaching such as Speech Acts, Teaching Fossilized Learners, Language and Culture, Teaching Young Learners, and Effective Writing Strategies.

Department of English and Humanities

Undergraduate Thesis Presentation

As a requirement of the ENG 466: Thesis course, the graduating students (Summer 2007) of the Department of English and Humanities gave their thesis presentations on 3rd September 2007. The following is a list of thesis presentations given by the graduating batch:

Sadia Afrin: "Encouraging students' oral participation in ESL classrooms"

Sadia Afrin: "Teaching Grammar Creatively at Elementary Level"

Tahera Akhter: "Giving Feedback and Correcting Errors in ESL Classrooms"

Bilkis Fahmida: "Classroom Management: An Essential Aspect of Teaching"

Farzana Khan: "Techniques to teach grammar used in an English medium school"

Rabeya Nasrin Khan: "Effective Grammar Teaching in ESL Classrooms"

Nadia Mehjabin: "Teaching techniques that I use in my ESL classes: pros and cons"

Samia Rahman: "Teachers' Attitude towards students in an ESL classroom"

Farhana Zamil Tinny: "A Newsroom in a Private TV Channel in Bangladesh: Its Structure and Operation"

Samia Zerine: "Teaching Writing to Young Learners"

Writing Workshop

The English Department arranged a three-day writing workshop from 10-12 September for students of the English Department. The workshop was conducted by Ms. Nausheen Eusuf (Lecturer, ENH) and focused on effective writing techniques and argumentation.

New Appointment

Razeen Abhi Mustafiz joined BU as a Lecturer in the Department of English and Humanities on 23rd September, 2007. He completed his MA in English (TESOL) from North South University and his BA in English (Linguistics) from East West University.

Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (MNS)

Seminars Organized by the MNS Department

'Twentieth century was the physicists' century, and the twenty-first century would be the biologists' century'; with these words of Professor Abdus Salam, Professor Jamal Nazrul Islam, Professor Emeritus of the University of Chittagong started his seminar entitled "DNA, Origin of Life and the Genome". The seminar was held at the MNS Department on the 10th September 2007. The presentation elaborated the polymer chains of DNA at the atomic level to the genome, its stability and diversity to give rise to various proteins and thus to life in living organisms. The faculty members of the MNS Department and students of the MNS Department as well as other Departments of BRACU attended the seminar.

International Conference Attended by Professor Naiyyum Choudhury

Professor Naiyyum Choudhury participated in the Executive Committee Meeting of the Inter Academy Panel on International Issues held in Canberra, Australia from 25-27 September 2007 at the invitation of the Australian Academy of Sciences. Professor Choudhury presented at this meeting reports on the activities of the Networks of Academies of Sciences in the countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (NASIC) and those of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences.

BRACU DLC Global Development Learning Network (GLN) Centre

Video Conference Workshop on Toyota Production System by GDLN

BRAC University GDLN Center is proud to announce that it has successfully concluded a workshop on Toyota Production System for National Productivity Organization (NPO) under Ministry of Industries of the Government of Bangladesh. Mr. A. M. M. Khairul Bashar coordinated the event for Bangladesh participated by 25 participants of different Public and Private Enterprises invited by NPO, Bangladesh under Ministry of Industries. Asian Productivity Organization (APO) conducted the workshop from Japan via Video Conference from 11th September 2007 to 13th September 2007 through BRAC University GDLN Center. This was the second workshop in a month conducted by APO for Bangladesh. The First session was about ISO 9000 ISO 14000 and Green Productivity, which was held last month at BU from 21st to 24th August 2007. This is the first time for APO to conduct such workshop via Video Conference in Bangladesh. Dr. Makoto Kawada, Professor, Meijo University, President, Meijo Process Management Institute and Mr. Sammy Matsuzaki of Central Japan Industries Association conducted the 3-day workshop, which was also participated simultaneously by Teri India, SDLC Sri Lanka, NPO Nepal and NPO Pakistan.

Residential Semester Savar

Residential Semester Fall 2007

The residential semester of Fall 2007 started from 16th of September 2007. A briefing session was organized for the students coming to Savar RS at Mohakhali Campus beforehand so that they can get an overview of the RS. The students arrived at Savar on the 15th of September 2007. A total of 198 students joined the Residential Semester, Fall 2007. Of them, 92 are female. The students of this batch are from BBA, CSE, ECE, ESS, LAW and English Department. The duration of the Residential Semester is 14 weeks and will terminate on 18 December 2007.

Student Orientation

The students of Fall 2006 has got a two-day long orientation session on the first two days of RS. The sessions organized on 16 - 17 October 2007 at Markuli Hall and facilitated by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, the Pro -VC of BRACU along with the Campus Super. The parents of the students were invited on the second day, where the Vice Chancellor of BRACU was present. The heads of the departments and teachers were present in the sessions. The regular classes started from September 18, 2007.

The Vice Chancellor, in his speech, said that BRACU has become different from other universities through introducing the residential semester at Savar. He added, we want social leaders for our country. In order to earn that quality, students should involve themselves in the life-oriented education side by side with the academic excellence. RS tries to provide that kind of opportunity through involving students in field visit, social lab, study tour, community living, and some other cocurricular activities. He also talked to the

parents and participates in a question-answer session. The heads of different departments also spoke in the session.

Cultural Evening

On September 30, 2007 the Savar Campus experienced a beautiful, enjoyable and amusing cultural evening. The audience reveled in the rendition of music and Drama playing to their heart's content. The students of RS organized this evening.

Film show

'Student Film club' organized a film show at marculi hall on 26, September. Most of the students enjoyed the movie.

Open Badminton Competition

On the 1st of October 2007 open Badminton competition was held. Students were divided into two groups considering the male and female students.

Field visit: Learning from the people

A four-day long exposure visit was organized by the department of Bangladesh studies of BRACU during September 22 - 25, 2007 for the students of MAGD students. The 23 students of MAGD were divided into four teams and visited field programs on Health, Education, Microfinance, and Social Development implemented by the Government, BRAC, and some other NGOs at Comilla, Gazipur, Mymensing and Madhupur. On completion of the visit, the students gave a presentation on October 01, 2007 at Savar. The Vice Chancellor of BRACU and the Executive Director of BRAC were the chief guests in the presentation session. One of the representatives of World Bank, the Registrar, Dean of BBS, and some other senior teachers of BRACU were also present in the session. Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed facilitated the session.

Career Services Office

Congratulations to Ferdous Noyem, Grade-II Officer, Asset Operations Department, BRAC Bank has received an award for

Participating in "Core-Banking Software Migration Project "(Finacle, Infosys) & Castle-ULS. Ferdous also stood fourth in BIBM Exam (Training Received From Bangladesh Institutes of Bank Management). Ferdous also stood fourth in BIBM Exam (Training Received From Bangladesh Institutes of Bank Management).