

# BRAC University

## 4<sup>th</sup> Convocation

5<sup>th</sup> February, 2009

Chancellor's Message



President  
People's Republic of Bangladesh

I am happy to learn that BRAC University is holding its 4<sup>th</sup> Convocation on February 05, 2009. On this occasion, I convey my heartfelt felicitations to the graduating students their parents and the university authority as well.

Convocation is a solemn occasion that acknowledges the success of the students. I hope the graduating students of this University would effectively face the challenges of today's dynamic & fast changing world. I urge upon the new graduates to contribute to the development of our country.

I wish the Convocation a success.

Allah Hafez, Bangladesh Zindabad

*Signature of Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed*

Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed

Chief Guest's Message



Former Professor of History  
University of Dhaka

It gives me great pleasure to learn that BRAC University is holding its 4<sup>th</sup> Convocation on February 5, 2009. This is indeed a festive occasion, not only for the graduating students and their families but also for every member of the BRAC University family.

The Convocation is a happy occasion through which students receive their rewards for sincere and dedicated work throughout their programme of studies. I believe that the graduating students, with the quality education they have received from this great institution, are prepared to face the challenges of a dynamic and fast changing world. I hope the students will make significant contributions in their respective professions and add value to their future endeavours.

I congratulate the graduating students, their parents, the faculty and administration of BRAC University on this grand occasion.

*Signature of Professor A. F. Salahuddin Ahmed*

Professor A. F. Salahuddin Ahmed

### BRACU in brief

**Undergraduate programs** in Economics, Law, English, Architecture, Business Administration, Physics, Applied Physics & Electronics, Computer Science, Computer Science & Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering.

**Graduate programs** in Development Studies, Public Health, Governance & Development, Business Administration, Disaster Management, Biotechnology, English, Applied Economics, Early Childhood Development.

Undergraduate students: 1856

Graduate students: 412

Faculty members: 248

Financial aid disbursed in 2008: Tk 2.97 crore

### Profile of Graduates

Equipped with the knowledge and skills gained at BRAC University, our first three batches of graduates are working in media, advertising, non-government organizations, telecommunications, educational institutions, multinational companies, banks and financial institutions, software companies, etc. We are justifiably proud of them and we expect that our fourth batch of graduates will follow and build on their success.

At our fourth convocation, a total of 553 students are graduating: 362 students from undergraduate programs, and 191 students from graduate programs, in the following disciplines:

**Bachelor's degrees** in Architecture, Business Administration, Computer Science, Computer Science & Engineering, Economics, Electronics & Communication Engineering, English, Law.

**Master's degrees** in Applied Economics, Biotechnology, Business Administration, Development Studies, Disaster Management, English, Governance & Development, Public Health.

### Distinctions

#### Chancellor's Gold Medal

Eshrat Mustafa Eshita (BBA)  
Kazi Rashedul Hasan (MBA)

#### Vice Chancellor's Medal

Tanjina Khan (B.Arch.)  
Sabbir Hossain (BS in CSE)  
Nazmus Saquib (BS in ECE)  
Eshrat Mustafa Eshita (BBA)  
Tanveer Reza Rouf (BSS in Econ)  
Shayera Moula (BA in English)  
Aroop Saha (MA in English)  
Sadia Faizunnisa (MDS)  
Chaittee Biswas (MDM)  
Sujeeta Shakya (MPH)  
Devabrata Chakraborty (MAGD)  
Md. Saifur Rahman Khan (MS in Biotech)

Prime Minister's Message



Prime Minister  
People's Republic of Bangladesh

I am pleased to learn that the 4<sup>th</sup> Convocation of BRAC University is going to be held on 05 February 2009.

On this occasion, I extend my felicitations and congratulations to the graduating students, their parents, the faculty, and the authority of BRAC University.

I hope that the new graduates will engage themselves to meet the challenges of transforming the socio-economic landscape of the country.

I wish the Convocation all success.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever

*Signature of Sheikh Hasina*

Sheikh Hasina

### Mission

To foster the national development process through the creation of a centre of excellence in higher education that is responsive to society's needs, is able to develop creative leaders and actively contributes to learning and creation of knowledge.

### fostering development

Steeped in the values inherited from its parent institution, BRAC University aims to educate young people who will be creative and independent thinkers with a deep engagement with the culture and traditions of Bangladesh, a keen awareness of its problems, and the inspiration to work for its development. In their very first year, students are sensitized to these issues through two specially designed courses taken during the Residential Semester in Savar. The 'Bangladesh Studies' course focuses directly on development issues in Bangladesh, and includes field visits to BRAC schools, micro-credit projects, and national heritage sites, to provide students with more than merely a textbook appreciation of the topics covered, while 'Ethics and Culture' teaches moral and ethical values through an understanding of different philosophical and cultural issues.

Even outside the classroom, BRAC University tries to inculcate concern for others, and encourages development-related activities and outreach. Recently, the 'Shohayota Fund' was established using faculty and staff contributions, with matching funds from BRAC, to assist students who might be facing an unexpected crisis. Student clubs and forums often get involved in community service. After cyclone Sidr, all student clubs and forums worked together to collect money and relief materials. Their initiative and enthusiasm in responding to the needs of the larger community illustrates the kind of active citizenship and willingness to give back to one's community that we try to encourage and inculcate.

Finally, our graduate programs are geared towards providing the education and skills necessary for development work. The goal of graduate programs like Development Studies, Governance and Development, Public Health, Early Childhood Development, English, Biotechnology, and Applied Economics is to train young professionals to lead Bangladesh in its quest for development.

The challenges of the twenty-first century are complex and formidable, not only in Bangladesh, but in the ever-expanding global village of which we are a part. To meet those challenges, the leaders of tomorrow must be creative and dynamic, able to deal with any situation that comes their way. BRAC University provides a 'broad-based education' where students are required to take at least a quarter of their courses outside their major field of study, so that they acquire both depth in their chosen field, as well as breadth in terms of general knowledge. This broad-based education makes students well-rounded and versatile, with the ability to adapt to any environment. Later, in their final year, students are required to write a dissertation or do an internship, which gives them hands-on, real world experience. Students also participate in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities to develop their communication and leadership skills.

Communication skills, both oral and written, are emphasized by the English language courses conducted by the Centre for Languages, which will also soon offer courses in other languages. By emphasizing group work, projects, and co-curricular activities, CCL strives to create an enjoyable and student-centered learning environment that motivates the students and improves their communicative fluency and leadership skills.

The Residential Semester gives students a unique opportunity to develop as individuals. Removed from the familiar bearings of home and family, students learn how to function independently, as well as communicate and cooperate with others. They also take part in various activities, exercises, and excursions designed to promote holistic development. Students come away from the experience more confident, independent and articulate, qualities that will hold them in good stead after they graduate and begin their professional lives.

creative leadership

Education Minister's Message



Minister, Ministry of Education  
& Ministry of Primary & Mass Education  
People's Republic of Bangladesh

It gives me much pleasure to congratulate the graduates on the successful completion of their studies at BRAC University. Each one of them has achieved an important milestone in life and will join a growing list of distinguished BRAC University Alumni.

I firmly believe that in a democratic education enables us all to achieve an effective state of affairs. The knowledge and skills that a good education system imparts allow us to navigate the terrain of an increasingly complex world and confront emerging challenges with greater confidence. I am sure that during their pursuit of knowledge, the graduates have made best use of all the resources and prepared themselves for the future with a view to bring about welfare for our people.

I urge the graduates to proceed in their journey with a vision that helps not only themselves but the country as a whole to which they belong. They should remember that they are the leaders of tomorrow and our country's future rests on their shoulders.

I wish the graduates the very best in the days ahead.

*Signature of Nurul Islam Nahid M.P.*

Nurul Islam Nahid M.P.

Governing Board President's Message



President, Governing Board  
BRAC University

First, let me offer my heartfelt congratulations to the graduates as we celebrate the Fourth Convocation of BRAC University. This is a proud moment for all of us as it represents the culmination of their hard work and achievement. It is not only our graduates that we celebrate today, but also their parents and the faculty and staff of the university who make this university the vibrant institution that it is.

In the course of just seven years, BRAC University has come a long way. It is recognized as one of the top private universities in the country, and it strives to offer courses and programs that are contemporary and relevant to the needs of the present day. At the same time, the broad-based education our students receive ensures that they learn to think critically and see things from multiple perspectives. We are also mindful of the critical needs of our society, and offer specialized postgraduate programs in Governance, Public Health, Development Studies, Business Administration, Biotechnology, Applied Economics, Disaster Management and English.

My advice to our graduates is to reflect on what you achieved so far, while also remembering that there is much more to learn. You have had the privilege of receiving an excellent education, but that also means you have the responsibility to use your education for the betterment of our society, to improve the lives of others who have not had the opportunities that you have had.

Congratulations once again, and warm wishes for the future.

*Signature of Fazle Hasan Abed*

Fazle Hasan Abed

Vice Chancellor's Message



Vice Chancellor  
BRAC University

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the fourth graduating class of BRAC University on this auspicious day.

BRAC University has moved ahead with tremendous strides in the last seven years, and our students and graduates are the proof of our progress. It is your hard work that we are celebrating today. Your parents and guardians also deserve special recognition for all they have done to make your education possible. And of course, the faculty and staff that form the backbone of this institution deserve praise for always striving to help students achieve their full potential.

We are all aware of the complex problems of the world today, and as future citizens of this country and of the world, it will be your responsibility to try to tackle some of these problems. We have endeavoured to provide you with an education that will give you the skills necessary to succeed in your chosen field. I am confident that the knowledge and training gained here will hold you in good stead in whatever career you decide to pursue.

I hope that all of you will succeed in following your dreams, and someday become leaders in your fields. But always try to continue learning from others, widening your knowledge, and gaining wisdom.

Once again, I congratulate you for your accomplishments, and I wish you the best as you set out into the world.

*Signature of Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury*

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury

Convocation Speaker's Message



Former Chairman & CEO  
McKinsey & Company

McKinsey & Company

It is a great pleasure to salute BRAC University on the occasion of this Convocation, and to applaud the achievements of its faculty, alumni and students.

Advanced education is preparing today's students to confront the challenges of building a stronger society at home and promoting development overseas. As we recognize the university's scholars for their academic distinction, we feel confident that they will make a strong contribution to a broader social mission: building a more prosperous, more harmonious international community.

Global issues require global-level thinking, and BRAC University is equipping its graduates with an awareness of the complex and interconnected issues that now confront mankind. As they pursue their careers in private enterprise, public service or nonprofit organizations, the graduates will assert the skills they developed here, to help their communities live up to their full potential for success.

On this day when we honor their academic success and renew our social commitment, allow me to add my congratulations to the graduates, faculty and leaders of BRAC University.

*Signature of Rajat K. Gupta*

Rajat K. Gupta

### Student Activities

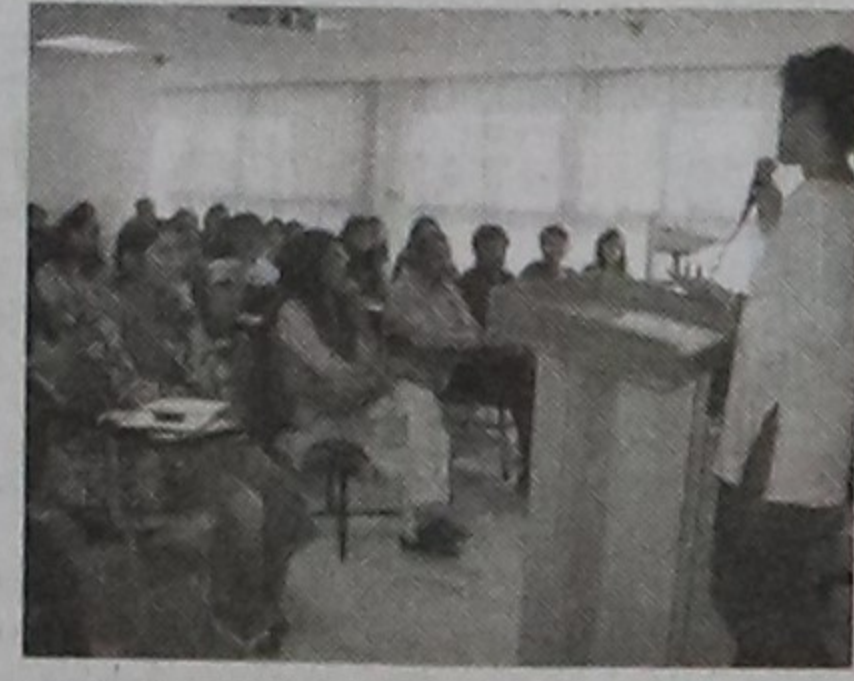
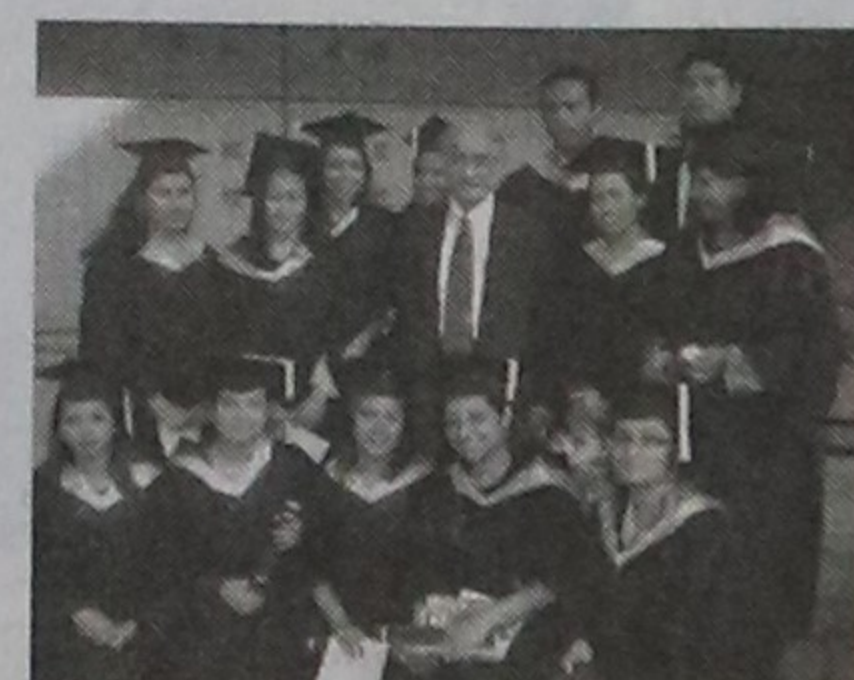
Students at BRAC University participate in a thriving extracurricular arena with 28 active clubs and forums which operate under the auspices of the Student Affairs Office. Each semester kicks off with a Club Fair where all the clubs and forums set up booths to showcase their activities and attract new members. The clubs and forums organize seminars, workshops, study tours, debates, film shows, cultural programs, community service, sporting events, etc. They also represent the university at various inter-university and national level competitions. Faculty members play an important role in guiding club/forum activities, and the university encourages participation in extra-curricular activities to promote leadership, life skills, and personal development.

### BRACU in the world

At BRAC University, learning extends beyond the classroom. Whether it is exploring indigenous architecture in Bandarban, participating in a case competition in Seattle, discovering Tagore's humanistic vision at Shantiniketan, or presenting papers at international conferences, our students have been actively and inquisitively exploring the world beyond the university and leaving their mark on it. Study tours and field trips frequently complement classroom learning, and our students hone their skills by participating in programming contests, case competitions, design competitions, debates, etc. They have travelled as far as Canada and the Netherlands to present their research, and have been selected to attend the American State Department sponsored South Asian Undergraduate Student Leaders Institute. BRAC University encourages intellectual curiosity and involvement with the larger world which will prepare the students to be enlightened global citizens.

a centre of excellence

### creation of knowledge



### Institutional Linkages

#### Institute of Governance Studies

- Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (USA)
- George Mason University (USA)
- University of Manitoba (Canada)
- Key Centre, Griffith University (Australia)
- Monash University (Australia)
- Basel Institute of Governance, Basel University (Switzerland)
- Korea Development Institute School of Public Policy and Management (Korea)

#### Institute of Educational Development

- Columbia University (USA)
- George Washington University (USA)
- University of Sussex (UK)
- Open Society Institute (UK)
- Aga Khan Foundation (Canada)
- National University of Educational Planning and Administration (India)

#### James P. Grant School of Public Health

- Harvard School of Public Health (USA)
- Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University (USA)
- Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University (USA)
- George Washington University (USA)
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK)
- Karolinska Institute (Sweden)
- University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)
- University of Nagasaki (Japan)
- Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Science & Technology (India)
- Centre for Health and Population Research, ICDDR,B (Bangladesh)

#### BRAC Business School

- Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand)
- Asian Institute of Management (Philippines)
- University of South Australia (Australia)

#### Faculty Development and Capacity Building

- George Washington University (USA)

BRAC University • 66 Mohakhali C/A • Dhaka 1212 • Tel: 8824051 • Web: www.bracu.ac.bd

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