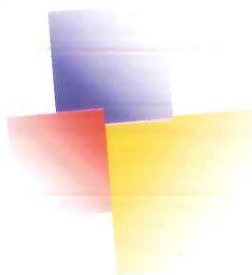




# ECHOES



**Heartiest wishes for  
Shakib Al Hasan of  
AIUB's English Department**



## **BELTA-AIUB-THT Seminar 2009 hosted by the Department of English**



Amid tremendous enthusiasm fifty English teachers and trainers from renowned schools, colleges and universities received intensive in-service training at the **BELTA-AIUB-THT Seminar 2009** hosted by the Department of English, AIUB, in its Campus-7 from 23 to 25 July. The theme of the event was *Alternative Methodologies in English Language Teaching*.

Organized by the Department of English in collaboration with Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) and Teachers Helping Teachers (THT), a Japan-based forum of international English teachers, this seminar featured 30 intensive workshops on various facets of classroom teaching and management.

The THT delegation was headed by Dr. Patrick Dougherty, a prolific ELT-expert and poet from USA. The other members were: Carla Wilson (USA), Michael Stout (Canada), Dr. Cecilia Silva (Argentina), Stephen Wolfe (USA), Cherie Brown (New Zealand), Patrick McCoy

Bangladesh cricket team's ever-smiling *Captain Cool*, one-day cricket's No. 1 all rounder Shakib Al Hasan, has made the nation proud by becoming 'Wisden Test Cricketer of the Year 2009'. Further kudos to him for being selected by Worcestershire for the coming County season. Shakib, along with his team mates, also has our heartiest congratulations for winning the first ever test match series in foreign soil white-washing the West Indies and for leading his team in crushing them 3-0 in the one day series that followed. And finally, glorious wishes to him for making our team win successive one day series both abroad and home against Zimbabwe 4-1 and 4-1 respectively. Shakib, a 2<sup>nd</sup> semester student of BA in English program at the Department of English, AIUB, has been displaying his dedicated character in academic affairs as well.

To be precise, we are PROUD for the entire Bangladesh national team as all the players have been our students in the **AIUB-BCB Educational Program**; they undergo intensive classes under our department in English Language skills, cross-cultural norms, official etiquettes, and media training.

(USA), Anne McLellan Howard (UK), and Jill Bruellman (USA).

It should be mentioned that Teachers Helping Teachers (THT) is a Japan based non-profit organization that has been bringing volunteer teacher trainers to Bangladesh since 2005 in association with BELTA. The aim is to improve the quality of English education in the country through active teacher training. THT brings teacher trainers who give dynamic workshops and presentations to benefit hard working Bangladeshi English teachers as they strive to improve their skills and the quality of their teaching.

(contd. p 6)





**Editorial**

We are thankful to Almighty for the wide acclaim that we received from all quarters after the publication of the first issue. Students of all disciplines liked it most, and that is what we deem as our sweetest success.

Apart from to our kind-hearted colleagues, we are grateful to the entire AIUB management for providing us relentless support in activating ourselves through any sort of academic and co-curricular programs.

Whenever we want to organize something which, in whatever capacity, is related to student- or faculty-nourishment, there is always an unconditional 'Go ahead, folks!' assurance from them.

It is in that context and gesture that all the members of our English department are reasonably happy to have this symbol called

**ECHOES** as their creative identity.

Any kind of suggestions will be highly appreciated.

Happy reading!

**Department of English**

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Mr. M Hamidul Haque  
Ms. Sakiba Ferdousy  
Dr. Silverine de Silva  
Mr. Azad Ruhul Amin  
Ms. Rumana Islam  
Mr. Mohammad Khan Firoz  
Ms. Rizwana Mahbub Liana  
Mr. Debasish Biswas  
Ms. Syeda Farzana Sultana  
Mr. Qumrul Hasan Chowdhury (*on study leave*)  
Ms. Fahrma Rinku  
Ms. Sabrina Rahman  
Ms. Sadia Jabeen Rahman  
Mr. Md. Asif Kamal  
Ms. Sayeeda Rahman  
Ms. Noora Shamsi Bahar

**WIDER VIEW****For how long will Business Communication stay as a "Lesikar's book course"?**

M Hamidul Haque

Due to the rapidly flourishing sectors of business and commerce, Business English — in the form of Business Communication — has been a prime aspect of ESP (*English for Specific Purpose*) programs worldwide. Over the years, Business Communication has naturally established itself as a crucial professional course in our country too.

But quite strangely, as my experience goes, very few teachers try to realize that Business Communication is not merely a bookish subject where showing some power point slides and distributing a handful of photocopied notes serve the purpose. Added to these is the overwhelming dependence of everyone on Raymond Lesikar's text book.

God knows how and why Business Communication in our universities got confined into the circle — more accurately, vicious cycle — of 'Lesikar's book' from where there has been no escape.

Accepting the fact that Lesikar is one of the pioneering figures of communication studies, it is desired that all teachers to rethink for a while: do our undergrad students of Business Communication really need to swallow the expressions, approaches, and styles from Lesikar which are often unnecessarily strenuous, redundantly boring and inconsistently uncreative for them?

I have come across lots of graduates from both public and private universities to whom Business Communication was 'just a dull, worthless subject' where teachers had 'virtually nothing to do outside Lesikar' and ultimately they expected a 'generic grade regardless of their understanding or misunderstanding the subject matters'. 'Lesikar Syndrome' is at its best, no doubt. Shouldn't we be teaching this course in a more innovative and interesting manner putting in Bangladeshi corporate examples and cases so that it becomes meaningful and socio-culturally attractive?

Dealing with 'Lesikar-less' Business Communication in AIUB for quite a long time, we have realized one thing: it is the most relevant course that helps students pass some remarkable, memorable and fruitful moments inside the classrooms.

It makes them smarter than they can ever imagine!

*The writer, an Assistant Professor at the Department of English, is an expert in Business English and Technical Communication*



## International Mother Language Day celebrated in grandeur

The teachers and students of the Faculty of Arts & Social Science of the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) organized a series of programs in celebration of the International Mother Language Day, which included Literary Competition, Poster Painting and Drawing Competition, and a colorful multicultural show on 23 February, Monday, at the AIUB auditorium, participated by the Bangladeshi and foreign students of AIUB. Radio Today, the media partner, broadcasted the event live.

Prof. Abdullah Abu Sayeed, renowned educationist and social activist, was present as the Chief Guest of the event. Much to the delight of the full-house exuberant audience which included students of all disciplines, teachers and officers, the program began with a knowledgeable welcome speech by Dr. Charles Villanueva, Dean of Business Administration, who highlighted Prof. Abdullah Abu Sayeed's achievements as a social reformer glorifying his receipt of the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2004. Prof. Anwar Hossain, the Pro VC of AIUB, spoke on the occasion candidly narrated the greatness of Ekushe in our self-discovery as an independent nation.

In his luminous speech blended with humor and knowledge, Prof. Sayeed stressed the need for nourishing the love and passion for mother tongue. He explained how Bangalees, as a nation, has traditionally thrived for enlightenment by being internationalistic and patriotic at the same time. 'We all need English as the most useful tool of openness and global communication, but not disregarding Bangla, one of the most modern dynamic languages of the world,' he said.

After the colorful multicultural show, Prof. Sayeed distributed prizes among the winners of the Literary and Art contests. These contests were unique. In the Literary competition organized by the English Writing Club, students submitted "Letters to Motherland and Countrymen" (in Bangla and English) and "Pages of Diaries about Language and Nationhood" (in Bangla and English). They also submitted Posters on "Bangladesh, as I have seen" and water color paintings on "Motherland". A massive number high quality letters, diaries, posters and paintings, gave the judges a sweet hard time to finalize the winners.

The winners were as follows:

**LETTER WRITING CONTEST (ENGLISH) :** 1.Mahmuda Fardi ; English (1st), 2.Quazi Sameer Salman; BBA (2nd)

**LETTER WRITING CONTEST (BANGLA) :** 1.Tausif Ali; EEE (1st), 2.Md. Nasibullah Sohan; EEE (jointly 2nd), 3.Md. Samiul



Dr. Charles Villanueva (*Dean of FAB*), Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed (*Head of English Department*), Syeda Farzana Sultana (*Moderator of English Writing Club*) and Dr. Buddha Dev Biswas (*Head of Social Science Department*) are seen with the Chief Guest **Prof. Abdullah Abu Sayeed**

**DIARY WRITING CONTEST (ENGLISH) :** 1.Hasina Mamtaz Eva; English(1st)

**DIARY WRITING CONTEST (BANGLA) :** 1.Fahmim Ferdous; EEE (1st), 2.Nusrat Jahan Alam (jointly 2nd), 3.Khondoker Quaribul Hasan ; EMBA (jointly 2nd)

**POSTER PAINTING CONTEST :** 1.Farhana Islam Tani; English (1st), 2.Shukla Debnath; Architecture (2nd)

**WATER COLOR CONTEST :** 1.Nafhatul Jannat Shanta; BBA (1st), 2.Ahmed Nurul Hasan Shakkhor; Architecture (2nd)

It needs to be mentioned that *Prothom Alo*, country's leading Bangla daily, sponsored the attractive prizes of winners—which comprised books on our Liberation War, Language Movement, national identity, culture and tradition.

Professor Sayeed appreciated the initiative of the teachers of Arts and Social Sciences in promoting literary and cultural pursuits in the campus and making students participate in such large numbers.

Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed (*Head of English Dept*) and Dr. Buddha Dev Biswas (*Head of Social Science Dept*) coordinated the entire event. They were ably supported by Syeda Farzana Sultana, Rumana Islam, Syeda Sanjida Islam & Debasish Biswas of English Department; and Farhana Zaman & Shaira Matin of Social Science Department and Mr. Niaz Mazumder of Advertising Department; not to speak of the ever smiling big-hearted Manzur H Khan (Coordinator of Student Affairs).





## Faculty activities in brief

*Does your Choice of Language Equate with your Choice of Identity?: The Role of Languages in Education*

Paper presented jointly by **M Hamidul Haque** and **Syeda Farzana Sultana** at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Language and Development Conference organized by the British Council, 23-25 June 2009.

*Demystifying the Domain of Sexual Identity in the Second Language Classroom of the Developing Countries: A Poststructuralist Perspective*

Paper presented by **Qumrul Hasan Chowdhury** at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Language and Development Conference organized by the British Council, 23-25 June 2009.

*Role of Teachers' Feedback in English Classrooms*

Workshop conducted by **Syeda Farzana Sultana** at the AIUB auditorium for the students of BBA, EEE, CS and BA, 21 June 2009.

*On Vindicating Michael Madhusudan Dutta's Writings in English*

Paper presented by **Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed** at a seminar on the occasion of Michael Madhusudan Dutta's death anniversary at the East West University, 16 June 2009.

## Chinese Language & Culture course enters its newer phase

As part of the English department's string of co-curricular projects, the ongoing Chinese Language & Culture course has entered in its second phase—this time in an innovative manner.

Ms. Lin, the delightful Chinese language instructor from Beijing, has been having soothing moments with her most attentive pupils inside the classrooms. Both the faculty members and students are jointly attending these vibrant classes. 'I'm enjoying a lot; the response is tremendous', says an overjoyed Lin. 'It is really lot more than what I had imagined!'

After the successful completion of the last batch, this course will feature more professional elements in its syllabus which will help the students get into part time jobs as interpreters in different Chinese multinational companies in Bangladesh. 'Some of the top performers will also get the chance of visiting China every now and then,' says Lin, 'and that may open new horizons for them, who knows!'

Seems like AIUBians would relish their Great Wall ride in no time.

## Prof. Fakrul Alam's interactive colloquium on POST COLONIALISM AND GLOBALIZATION

AIUB's Department of English organized an interestingly interactive colloquium titled *Postcolonialism in the Era of Globalization* on 17 March, Tuesday, at the AIUB auditorium. Dr. Fakrul Alam, Professor of English at the University of Dhaka and currently the Advisor of the English Department at the East West University, was the main speaker.

The colloquium, which was attended by faculty members and students of AIUB as well as faculty members of other prominent universities, featured lively discussions on Postcolonialism from ideological and geopolitical perspectives.

After a brief introductory address by Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed (Head of the English Department), Dr. Charles C Villanueva (Dean of Arts and Social Sciences Faculty) introduced Prof. Fakrul Alam and highlighted his scholastic achievements in the literary field.

He then welcomed all the guests from other universities and wished the colloquium a success.

In his eloquent, scholarly deliberation, Prof. Alam explained why the understanding of postcolonialism is needed to understand the facets of hope and despair in our lives a thereby look into ourselves for reshaping our value systems, and rediscover of the 'selves' we all maintain.

He argued how Postcolonialism is inextricably related with the understanding of colonialism, and how we all need to rejuvenate our thoughts — wiping out the Eurocentric colonial mindset hidden inside us.



Prof. Alam argued with interesting examples how the powerful nations, in the name of globalization, have propagated the 'corporatization of the world' and have led us to believe that emancipation would arrive only through their outlook and framework, instead of ours. And in believing so, we have adopted ourselves in the Postcolonial cosmopolitanism, in the brand name of "globalization" — eventually allowing them to overwhelm us in all sorts of ethical, academic, linguistic, political and otherwise terms. He therefore stressed on the importance of adopting "internationalization".

Prof. Alam's speech was followed by a lively question-answer session—both by the faculty members and students.

Amid loud applause, Dr. Charles thanked Prof. Alam for his wonderful presentation and presented him with AIUB gift-pack and a special Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Vice Chancellor. A delightful snacks-&-coffee session followed right after that.



## Picture says it all!



© Roberto Neumiller

*An army of migrant workers from some of Africa's poorest states make their way home from oil-rich Libya on the back of a lorry*

(source: <http://dailynewspaper.co.uk/contents/nav/top7nav.htm>)

While we "relish" life staying in privileged positions, let us think of the other sides too. Life has its own crude ways of functioning, and those construct life's real picture, don't they? Let us all be thankful to Almighty for not being one of them.

## The vibrant Indonesian twins

Nur Wahida Zuchrifah, student of BA in English, is already being judged by her teachers as a promising future researcher and academic in the arena of Linguistics. Her twin sister Nur Fajarwati Zuchrifah is studying BBA with a similar reputation. In plain words, their performances in and outside the classrooms have been remarkable so far, enough to make all teachers proud.



Due to their father's diplomatic job, they have been in Bangladesh since 1 June 2008. Of course, they will complete their graduation from AIUB, as they said.

They have already fallen in love with this Dhaka city despite some oddities. 'One is the lack of any Dolby digital cinema hall', says Wahida, 'and added to it is the absence of the latest Hollywood movies anywhere!' What do they do then? Just buy the DVDs and watch at home.

Fajarwati points out to the garbage-clad environment which makes her sad. 'We feel so much for this city and we want it to remain clean always,' she says.

Both sisters love the traditional Bangladeshi dresses but they haven't tried the sari yet; it might be too tough for them to manage, they feel. They love the Bangladeshi foods which are different from those in their country (Indonesian foods are less spicy). But above all, they admire the people and have already made a good number of friends. They attend Bangladeshi social gatherings which they really enjoy.

By the way, how many of you know that these twins are singers with silky-voices? And dancers with classical movements? They often perform on different occasions in Dhaka and you better watch their awesome performances on the stage.

We look forward to their being the truest Indonesian ambassadors to this country.

## Glimpses of Pilipino for Bangladeshis

**Dr. Charles Villanueva**

*Dean, Faculty of Business Administration*



*Bangla is to Bangladesh while Pilipino is to Philippines.*

This verbal analogy is not only in words but in actual relationship and partnership. It cannot be denied that Filipinos have made humble and tangible contribution in making AIUB what it is now. It will surely continue to be a sustained partner. In keeping this partnership more lively, let me share with you some basic words in Pilipino so that you can learn them, the way we Filipinos keep learning some Bangla words.

How are you? => **Kumusta po kayo?**

I am fine. => **Mabuti po ako.**

What is your name? => **Anong pangalan mo?**

Thank you. => **Salamat po.**

Good Morning! => **Magandang umaga.**

Good Evening! => **Magandang gabi.**

Good bye! => **Paalam**

Where are you going?

=> **Saan ka pupunta?**

You are beautiful. => **Maganda ka.**

You are handsome. => **Gwapo ka.**

You are kind. => **Mabait ka.**

Father => **Tatay**

Mother => **Nanay**

Wife/Husband => **Asawa**

Girl/Woman => **Babae**

Boy/Man => **Lalake**

University => **Pamantasan**

Yes => **Oo**

In the next issue, I will add more word(s) and phrases. Learning a new language makes a person culturally and socially balanced. I mentioned in my opening statement in my welcome message during the International Mother Language Day Celebration at AIUB Auditorium, 'Language is considered the soul of the nation. It gives life, dignity and distinct mark as a unique culture and sovereignty to the people who speak the national language.' We should be proud of our language speak it with pride and honor.



(contd. from p. 1)

'This was a great conference,' said Dr. Pat Dougherty. 'American International University-Bangladesh was fantastic in the amount and extent of its ultramodern logistic support and cordial hospitality.' He went on saying that though THT is now active in several countries, Bangladesh had been their first country. And so the THT volunteers love returning to our friends and colleagues here.

Dr. Dougherty further said that the new association of THT with AIUB is certainly a great help in making the conference a success.

Michael Stout, a THT volunteer from Toyo Gakuen University, Tokyo, and a Haiku specialist, said on his first visit to Bangladesh, 'The teachers that who had attended were some of the most enthusiastic and active I have worked with.'

It all started with a colorful inauguration ceremony on 23 July at the AIUB auditorium with Prof. Nazrul Islam, honorable Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), attending as the Chief Guest. Presided over by AIUB's Vice Chancellor Dr. Carmen Z Lamagna, the event witnessed the attendance and goodwill speeches of the top level AIUB management including Dr. Anwarul Abedin, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Prof. Dr. Tafazzal Hossain, Vice President of Academics; Prof. Dr. Anwar Hossain, Pro Vice Chancellor; and Prof. Dr. Tazul Islam, Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences.

Speaking on the reasons for organizing such an event, THT Team Leader Dr. Patrick Dougherty and BELTA's President Dr. Rubina Khan thanked AIUB in general and its English Department in particular, for extending all out assistance towards THT and BELTA. Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, Head of the English Department thanked all the concerned persons in and out of AIUB for their contribution to making this event a reality. A specially designed 'Cake of Learning' was jointly cut by the UGC Chairman, AIUB Chairman, BELTA President and THT Leader amid fanfare.



Right after that, the workshops started in Campus-7 of AIUB. The workshops were divided into pre- and post-lunch periods with morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea breaks. Parallel sessions had to be run in separate conference rooms as 30 presentations in 3 days was a huge task to manage.

The workshops and presentations were diverse and interesting in their nature. While some presenters dealt with task-based classroom activities with specific references to language games, others focused on

dramatic and innovative classroom techniques to make students speak. If some focused on multi-skills approaches to overcome cultural complexities, others whirled round the domains of creative writing skills including even the appreciation of Japanese Haiku. By all means, each and every session was immaculately fruitful. Personally, many participants told me how after these sessions they've felt the urge to change themselves and do something new for their students.

During these rigorous three days, AIUB provided all the high-tech logistic support to both BELTA and THT-team which was further glorified by a wonderful tour arranged for the BELTA-THT delegates to AIUB's grand farm house at Sreepur on 24 July, Friday. Gleeful photo-sessions in the gorgeously de-



signed arena, warm hospitality and of the VC madam Dr. Carmen Lamagna and the Vice President of HR & Treasury Mr. Hasanul A Hasan with organic fruits-vegetables with delicious dishes, lively adda-sessions with Rabindrasangeet & modern Bangla songs rendered by Syeda Farzna Sultana, Dr. Arifa Rahman & her BELTA team, and English hits of yesteryears by Dr. Faheem along with Carla, Dr. Cecilia, Cherie, Anne and Jill made everyone's day. THT delegates said how they had a wonderful feel of the Bangladeshi countryside by this tour.

The final session of the last day witnessed an interactive round table titled 'Education in Bangladesh: The path followed and the highways ahead' where experts and the participants engaged in a lively argumentative discussions.

At the end, it was destined for a Certificate-awarding ceremony at the 17<sup>th</sup> floor of Campus-7. As Dr. Patrick recited his self-composed poem and thanked everyone for giving their best in the 3-day





collaborative effort and the awesome experience they had during their stay here, Dr. Carmen Lamagna distributed certificates to all participants and volunteers amid enthusiasm. A brief cultural show participated by AIUB's English teachers and THT members sweetly brought the curtains down.

'So far, this has been our best experience regarding all of our programs in different countries,' said several of the THT members before leaving Dhaka. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, we would love to see Dr. Patrick and his entire team come again among us in AIUB.

### **Creative Writing Workshop by English Writing Club**

The English Writing Club (EWC) of the Department of English, AIUB, organized a workshop on creative writing on July 30, 2009. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Patrick Dougherty, a teacher, trainer, writer and a poet who teaches in Dubai. Dr. Dougherty is the coordinator of Teachers Helping Teachers, a Japan based teachers' forum and a Special Interest Group of Japan Association of Language Teachers (JALT). A total of 30 promising student-writers from various departments participated in the workshop actively and enthusiastically.

Syeda Farzana Sultana and Qumrul Hasan Chowdhury, the two moderators of EWC, conducted the proceedings as Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, (Head of the English Department) introduced Dr. Dougherty. Numerous faculty members of



English Department were present in the workshop besides the students.

The session was highly interesting, thanks to the unique interactive approach of Dr. Dougherty. Reciting his self-composed poems and a short story, Dr. Dougherty narrated some crucial elements that everyone must bear in mind for becoming creative thinkers and writers. Through his activities, he successfully inspired the students to see beyond the surface of things, to use the most powerful faculty of imagination. The Dean of the Business Administration Dr. Charles C Villanueva, who ardently participated in the entire proceedings, presented a letter of appreciation to Dr. Dougherty for his wonderful contribution.

### **'Meet the Writer': Sharing and revelation**



On August 6, 2009, the English Writing Club (EWC) of the Department of English arranged an exceptionally special and innovative session titled 'Meet the Writer' for the students of the course Bangla Language and Literature. The students were overwhelmed to meet a modern writer to talk about the history of Bangla language, literature, art and culture.

Renowned activist-writer **Selim Morshed** rendered his valuable time to talk to the students and answer their curious questions. It was a time for sharing and revelation. After the session the students spontaneously talked about how great they felt about the session and about the new world of understanding and queries that was opened to them. It was an unique experience for the students and equally delightful experience for the writer whose book *Bagher Ghore Ghogh* was declared by the daily *Prothom Alo* as a 'Borshoshera Boi' (Book of the Year) in 2008.

### **English Speaking Club's interactive talk show on Parents vs Children**

An interactive talk show titled *How liberal are our parents actually?* was organized by the English Speaking Club (ESC), in association with the *Star Campus* magazine of the Daily Star, on 15 June 2009 at Room 7101, Campus 7.

**Hasina Mamtaz Eva**, student of English Literature, presented the key note paper while a panel of renowned discussants, along with diverse views of students and teachers, contributed to a thrilling verbal battle.

**Rumana Islam** and **Fahrma Rinku**, moderators of ESC, conducted the show. Presided over by Dr. Charles C Villanueva, Dean of FBA, the event featured **Mr. Shahnoor Wahid**, Editor of *Star Campus*, as the Special Guest.



## **AIUB-Bangladesh Cricket Board Educational Program 2009**

The Department of English successfully conducted three courses related to *English language skills, cross-cultural norms, official etiquettes, and media training* under the AIUB-BCB Educational Program.

Top level BCB executives, media managers, coaches (including national coach Jeremy Siddons), former national cricketers and physiotherapists were present in these occasions who expressed their enthusiasm and satisfaction at the conducting-style of these sessions.

These courses were:

### **AIUB-BCB Program for National Cricket Team (26-28 April 2009)**

*Venue: BCB Head Office in Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.  
Course conductors: Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, Mr. M. Hamidul Haque and Ms. Rumana Islam.*

### **AIUB-BCB Program for BCB Under-19 Team (7-25 June 2009)**

*Venue: Campus-5, AIUB. Course conductor: Ms. Rumana Islam.*

### **AIUB-BCB Program for Grameen Phone-BCB National Academy Players (5-16 July 2009). Venue: Campus-5, AIUB.**

*Course conductor: Ms. Rumana Islam.*

## **ECHOES**

### **ADVISORY PANEL**

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*Vice Chancellor*

**Dr. Charles C Villanueva**  
*Dean  
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*Echoes is published on behalf of the  
Department of English  
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences  
American International  
University-Bangladesh  
by the Office of Research and  
Publications (ORP)  
<http://orp.aiub.edu>*

## **Creative ELT Workshop for English teachers of Madrassas: The American Center Dhaka and English Department's joint venture**

The *Learner-centered Teaching and Networking Project* of Fulbright Alumni Qumrul Hasan Chowdhury and Syeda Farzana Sultana that won the Fulbright Alumni Project Competition 2009-10 was held successfully in different parts of the country with the aim of proliferating learner centered methodology among the underprivileged secondary school level English teachers of Bangladesh. This project of the Fulbright Alumni included a series of workshops at Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Tangail, follow-up observation classes, a seminar at Dhaka and a project end publication. The project was funded by United States Department of State, in collaboration with American Center, Dhaka, AIUB and BELTA.

The first workshop was held at the English Department premises in AIUB's Campus-7 on the 17 and 18 August with tremendous enthusiasm and spirited participation of the Madrasah teachers. Dr. Rubina Khan, Qumrul Hasan Chowdhury, Farhanaz Rashid, Syeda Farzana Sultana from the Alumni and Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed, Head of AIUB's English



Department, conducted interesting sessions for the participants. The participants requested the AIUB authority to conduct similar sessions in their premises which would benefit a vast majority of Madrasa teachers who have been deprived of such creative professional trainings. The workshop ended with a brief certificate awarding ceremony where Dr. Charles Villanueva from AIUB and Ms. Catherine Hallock and Ms. Shaheen Khan of American Center were present.

