



# Mid-Main Friends of Bangladesh Newsletter – Spring 2007



## Goals

1. A university program in nursing based on public health priorities and international standards.
2. Develop professional nurses as leaders in practice, education, management and research.
3. Partnerships with health agencies and educators.
4. Greater appreciation in Bangladesh about nurses' contributions.

## Why we think this is important

Primary Health Care has made impressive gains in Bangladesh. Much remains to be done. Better educated nurses can help make best use of scarce resources.

Many Bangladeshis have encouraged us in this project. Nurses and doctors report that there are few professional development opportunities for practicing nurses and that the practice standards are often low in public hospitals.

## Education for all

"IUBAT makes special provisions for needy students through scholarships, grants, free studentship, fee waivers, rebates deferred payments, campus jobs, special offers, students loans, and the like. It is IUBAT policy to cater to the needs of all students who aspire for higher professional education regardless of the income level of their family."

## Developing future nurse leaders in Bangladesh

Since 2003, Vancouver-based volunteers, sponsored by Mid-Main Community Health Centre have been working with the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology [IUBAT], a non-profit university based in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Year 1 & 2 BSN students

Created in 1991 as a non-profit institution IUBAT is Bangladesh's first independent university. IUBAT offers English-language programs in Agriculture, Business, Computer Sciences, Engineering and Hospitality Management. The Nursing program has been approved by the Bangladesh Nursing Council.



Varied learning opportunities





*"We are very proud to have foreign faculty come to our country and to IUBAT to help us and to work with us."  
-IUBAT student*

### Who We Are

The Mid-Main Community Health Centre Association is a non-profit society operating a multi-discipline health centre in Vancouver, Canada.  
<http://www.midmaincommunityhealth.net/>

Mid-Main sponsors health-related activities linked to the International University of Business, Agriculture and Technology, Dhaka.

For further information about the IUBAT nursing program contact Alex Berland (Vancouver) [aberland@telus.net](mailto:aberland@telus.net) 604.872.1622 or Dr. Karen Lund (Dhaka) [kd\\_lund@yahoo.ca](mailto:kd_lund@yahoo.ca)

## Our activities so far

Program Coordinator, Dr. Karen Lund of Vancouver has worked full-time in Dhaka since July 2004. Shamsun Nahar RN MSN of Dhaka works full-time and Canadian RN Farida Meghani supervises in the hospital. A physician and pharmacist lecture part-time.

Forty-five students are now enrolled, with some from Nepal. The most senior are completing Semester Five, focusing on medical surgical nursing. In the coming year their classes will focus on mental health and community nursing.

We have rented a modern four-bedroom apartment for visiting faculty. It is just a few minutes walk from the campus. Karen Lund and several students live in the same building.



## FAQs - Volunteer Opportunities

### What is involved?

As student enrolment grows, our priority is to recruit teachers. In Dhaka this involves teaching in classroom, workshop and clinical settings. In Canada we need help with fund-raising and lesson-writing in all courses.

### When can I help?

The university runs year-round. We suggest at least 3 weeks stay for everyone's benefit, but this can be flexible.

### Who should volunteer?

All types of health care providers are welcome in addition to nurses. We are not looking for professional educators, although that is especially helpful to us. The important qualities are interest in the students, ability to communicate about health issues and openness to another culture. Student internships can also be arranged.

### What will this cost?

Though we cannot pay travel costs or stipends for volunteers, we can provide a tax receipt for your costs. We can also offer room and board during your stay in Dhaka.

### Do you take donations?

We have gratefully received funds from many supporters. Mid-Main Community Health Centre issues tax-deductible receipts for donations. The money has been used for bookshelves, teaching supplies and books. Scholarship support for students is always welcome.



Community elders, practicing nurses and educators attended Deirdre Evans' workshop