

DU sports activities on decline

KAMRUL HASAN KHAN

The Dhaka University (DU) campus once buzzed with cultural activities and sports; today it has lost its heritage and glory as sports activities have almost come to a halt due to indifferent attitude of the authorities, lack of funds, political interference, suspension of sports quota and 'parallel administration' of the physical education department.

Many students complained that there are not adequate facilities for them to practise games or do physical exercises at the halls and the central gymnasium, although they have been paying for such facilities every year.

They said there are no proper trainers for various games and no regular practice sessions. Necessary instruments are not available at the gymnasium. Even there is no motivation programme to encourage students to take part in games.

Most instruments for physical

exercises in the gymnasium are lying in dilapidated condition and many of them have no use. The central gymnasium hall, which has been under construction for the last 15 years, is yet to be completed.

"Some prompt actions by the authorities are seen only ahead of any tournaments, but there is no regular practice of games throughout the year," said Rahul Kanti Roy, a fourth year journalism student.

Even the DU hockey team could not take part in the national hockey tournament in 2005 due to shortage of players, said Rahul, also a national hockey player.

There are four tennis courts and five basketball courts at different halls, but those have fallen into disuse nowadays.

In 2003, the authorities introduced the Compulsory Physical Education, which created much enthusiasm among the students, but the course was suspended the next year.

SPORTS QUOTA

Cancellation of the 'sports quota' has seriously hampered sports activities on the campus. The authorities cancelled it as a number of non-players showing fake documents got admitted to the university under the quota.

"A syndicate comprising student leaders, teachers and some officials of the physical education department used to enrol non-players at the university through corruption," said Prof Didarul Alam, adviser to the department.

He said steps should be taken to prevent such irregularities and 'sports quota' should be revived for the interests of the university.

'PARALLEL ADMINISTRATION'

"Parallel administration" at the Physical Education Department, which looks after the university sports, also hinders the activities of the department.

ASM Mofazzal Hossain, director of the department, and Adviser Prof Didarul Alam have had a feud since he (adviser) was appointed in April

2003 by the pro-vice chancellor, who is also the chairman of department.

Some officials of the department said that they find it difficult to work on any issues as there is no coordination between the director and the adviser.

SHORTAGE OF FUNDS

In 2005-2006 fiscal, the university allocated Tk 51.7 lakh for the department. But a huge chunk of the amount was earmarked for salaries of the officials. Only Tk 9.4 lakh was allocated for sports activities, gymnasium instruments and awards.

Mofazzal Hossain said, "With the limited budget, we find it difficult to cope with the growing needs of the students."

"To manage everything efficiently, we need more funds," he added.

POLITICAL INTERFERENCE

Political interference is also taking a heavy toll on the university sports, as the student wing of the ruling party always interferes in the intra-hall and inter-hall sports competitions.

The hall authorities give the responsibility of conducting sports activities to the student leaders who resort to corruption in many ways, said a resident student of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Hall.

The director of the department, however, denied the allegation, saying that only the hall authorities are responsible for intra-hall sports.



Salespersons of a shop display sarees to shoppers at New Market in the city yesterday. With Eid only two or three days away, people are thronging shopping malls in a large number. PHOTO: STAR



Rickshaws get stuck in a traffic jam in front of Dhaka College in the city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Four die after taking poisonous fish

UNB, B'baria

Four people died in Bancharampur upazila of the district on Friday after eating poisonous blowfish, locally known as 'potka' fish.

The dead were identified as Ibrahim Mia, 28, and his daughter Mariam Begum, 2, of Manikpur village, and Abdul Baten, 45, and Parul Begum, 19, of Kalyanpur village.

Mariam died at her house while the remaining three at the local health complex.

Two other sick people of Khoshkandi village are now undergoing treatment at the health complex.

Tofail threatens vigorous movement

UNB, Bhola

Awami League (AL) leader Tofail Ahmed yesterday threatened of a vigorous movement to thwart election under Justice KM Hasan as chief adviser of the caretaker government and Justice MA Aziz as Chief Election Commissioner.

He told a rally at Bapta union Parishad ground that Hasan and Aziz were tailored to rig the polls in favour of BNP. Elections under them will not be impartial, free or fair, he added.

Referring to the recent statements of the ruling party leaders that the reforms proposal of the opposition is unacceptable, Tofail said they would not allow any election without the reforms.

"We shall not take part nor shall we allow holding conspiratorial polls. We will launch a vigorous movement when the ruling party leaders have no scope to escape the public wrath," warned the AL presidium member.

6 BNP cadres held with arms

UNB, Bhola

Rab arrested six young men with a revolver from Borhanuddin on Friday night.

Rubel, Aslam, Noman, Monir, Ceazar and Hasan - all in early 20s and identified as BNP cadres - were sent to prison when produced before the court today, police said.

They said the ruling party cadres were gossiping on the Munshibari Darjar Bridge at 9:00pm when a Rab patrol team challenged them.

Borhanuddin upazila BNP president Anwar Bhuiyan said those arrested are not workers of his party. It was an attempt to malign BNP at the fag end of its rule.

Death anniversary

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Dr Wali Ahmed, former member of the parliament and one of the organisers of the War of Liberation, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his Shukrabad residence in the city after Asr prayers.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of the

ROAD ACCIDENTS Death toll doubles in last 3 yrs

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Death toll from road accidents doubled in last three years.

The number of road mishaps also increased alarmingly especially when over five million people commute during Eid festivals.

A total of 92 people died in road accidents during Eid-ul-Azha in 2003, while the number reached 190 in 2006, says a Buet research report.

Experts are of the view that due to excessive pressure of home-bound passengers, plying of unfit and unlicensed vehicles to deal with them and driving by incompetent drivers are largely responsible for increased road accidents.

The research, conducted by Accident Research Centre (ARC) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), said a total of 704 passengers died in 624 road acci-

dents from Eid-ul-Fitr 2003 to Eid-ul-Azha 2006. The number of injured during the period was 4369.

The report said most of the accidents took place at accident-prone areas known as black spots.

These are Chandina and Siddhirganj on Dhaka-Chittagong highway, Valuka on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway and several other spots on Dhaka-Aricha highway.

Besides head-on-collision and hitting from behind, the accidents also take place when drivers lose control over the steering to give side to other vehicles.

Though every year several steps are taken by the government to check road accidents, the result has been proved futile due to lack of adequate manpower, proper strategy and logistic support.

Director of Bangladesh Road

Transport Authorities Humayun Rashid said, "Actually BRTA has no activities on safety issues. It conducts only a little informal awareness programme. But a concerted effort is needed to ensure passengers' safety."

Recently, the highway police have started working in this regard, he added.

The BRTA also lacks adequate mechanism to check fitness of the vehicles for which most of the accidents take place, Humayun said, adding that competency tests are taken at district level across the country.

However, a few bus companies have started programme to train their drivers to avoid road accidents, he said.

"As the number of vehicles increases during the Eid to meet the demand of growing number of passengers, traffic congestion also intensifies resulting reckless driving

to reach the destination on time. This also leads to accident," said ARC Director Prof Mazharul Hoque.

It is essential to examine the fitness of vehicles and ensure their driving by skilled drivers, he said, adding that overloading of buses must be avoided.

Meanwhile, the home ministry on Thursday decided to tackle the situation and in order to avoid road accidents it has decided to remove roof racks from the buses so that no passenger could sit there.

Besides, additional pontoons would be arranged at ferry and launch terminals, and Rab, petrol police and mobile court would visit bus terminals to avoid unwanted incidents.

6 killed, 100 hurt in road mishaps

STAR CORRESPONDENT

At least six people were killed and 100 injured in separate road accidents in Savar, Tangail and Satkhira yesterday.

UNB from Savar adds: At least three passengers died and 50 were injured as a bus collided with a truck near Joytura bus stand on Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday.

Joylna, 70, Zafar, 16, and an unidentified man died on the spot. The injured were admitted to Dhamrai health complex or treated in local clinics.

Police seized both the bus and truck.

Survivors said the Aricha bound bus was damaged and fell into the roadside ditch after it collided with

the recklessly driven truck.

Our Correspondent from Tangail reports: At least three people, including two brothers, were killed falling from a speedy truck at Kalihati upazila in the district on Friday mid-night.

The victims were identified as two brothers Hafizur Rahman, 35, and Mofizur Rahman, 32, son of Tozammel Haque of Karimpur village under Kalai upazila in Joypurhat district, and Mohammad Samad Miah, 45, son of Mohir Mondol of Kulorpalsha village under Badargachhi upazila in Naogaon district.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place at around 2:30pm when four passengers of a Dhaka-bound goods-laden speedy

truck from Naogaon fell from the truck on Tangail-Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Link Road at Dhala Tangor area under Kalihati upazila in Tangail, leaving three dead on the spot and one injured seriously. They were travelling in the truck.

The identity of the injured could not be known immediately. He was undergoing treatment in Tangail General Hospital.

Police rushed to the spot and sent the bodies to Tangail General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our correspondent from Satkhira says: At least 50 people were injured, 14 of them seriously, in a road accident at Bakal in Sadar upazila on Satkhira-Kaligonj road yesterday.

The seriously injured Sabina

Yasmin, 55, Shafiqul Islam, 35, Lily, 6, Abul Hossain, 40, Abdullah, 40, Idris, 45, Abul Kalam, 35, Chapala Rani, 60, and her husband Kalipada, 65, Ibrahim 25, Iqbal, 28, Mohammad Ali, 30, Daud Ali, 40, and Mannan, 45 were admitted to Satkhira Sadar hospital.

Quoting local people police said the accident took place when a Kaliganj-bound mini bus hit a roadside tree at Bakal as its driver lost control over the steering, leaving at least 50 people, including women, injured.

Local people and police rushed to the spot and sent the victims to hospital.



Sewage water remains stagnant on a road at Nakhhalpara in the city due to poor drainage system. PHOTO: STAR

DMP website launched

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday launched its website providing information about the DMP with easy access for lodging complaints anonymously, says a DMP press release.

Inspector General of Police Anwarul Iqbal yesterday inaugurated the site www.dmp.gov.bd at the detective branch of DMP.

The site includes options for anyone to lodge complaints or give information against any 'terrorist'.

It also includes information about all the units of DMP, zonal and police station-wise information, activities and services that DMP offers to the city dwellers.

The browsers will also be able to get information about everyday press releases, monthly crime statistics, reports on monthly crime and can download the tender-related documents.

The site included the DMP Ordinance and other everyday rules for the city dwellers.

DMP Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman, Additional Police Commissioner AKM Mahfuzul Haq and other high officials were present during the inauguration.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Kutubdia and lowest 20.0 degree Celsius at Khulna.

The sun sets in the capital at 5.27pm today and rises at 6:00am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.9	21.8	64	66
Chittagong	33.3	24.7	74	69
Rajshahi	30.2	20.5	84	70
Khulna	30.5	20.0	81	—
Barisal	32.0	23.3	75	—
Sylhet	32.2	23.2	73	68
Cox's Bazar	32.9	24.8	72	72