

Dhaka Day by Day

Barren Turfs, Courts and Grounds of DU

By Ekram Kabir

To put it mildly, Dhaka University students have long reached an impasse in terms of games and sports. Although students of every residential hall literally fight for 'seats' — which are supposed to be a chair or stool of some sort in the recreation foyer — in front of the television set every time an inter-country sports event takes place, they hardly show their interests when it comes to trying their hands at some of the disciplines of games. For example, during the two recent world cups, football and cricket, and some series-competitions of cricket, including the Centennial Olympics, fights-in-the-common-rooms hit the headlines. The circumstances are also identical at Rokeya, Shamsunnahar and Fayzunnisa halls as well, since female students have a special fancy for 'cricket' — specially the 'cricket-stars' — even if some of them don't qualify to be knowledgeable enough about the game.

Every boys' hostel has — better say once had — at least one basketball ground and one tennis court, which now require some archaeological knowledge for their identification. Among these, Jagannath and Mohsin halls are costly happy with two football grounds. Jagannath's one is still utilised — as if to satisfy seasonal whims — for inter-departmental cricket tournaments, thanks to the enthusiasts. But the field — where the presence of DU students is a rare phenomenon — meant for the Mohsin hall has been being used for a long time by the national-league level football teams for practising.

There's an infrastructure at the western side of the Curzon Hall which occupies a large area of Dhaka University's campus. It has almost all the

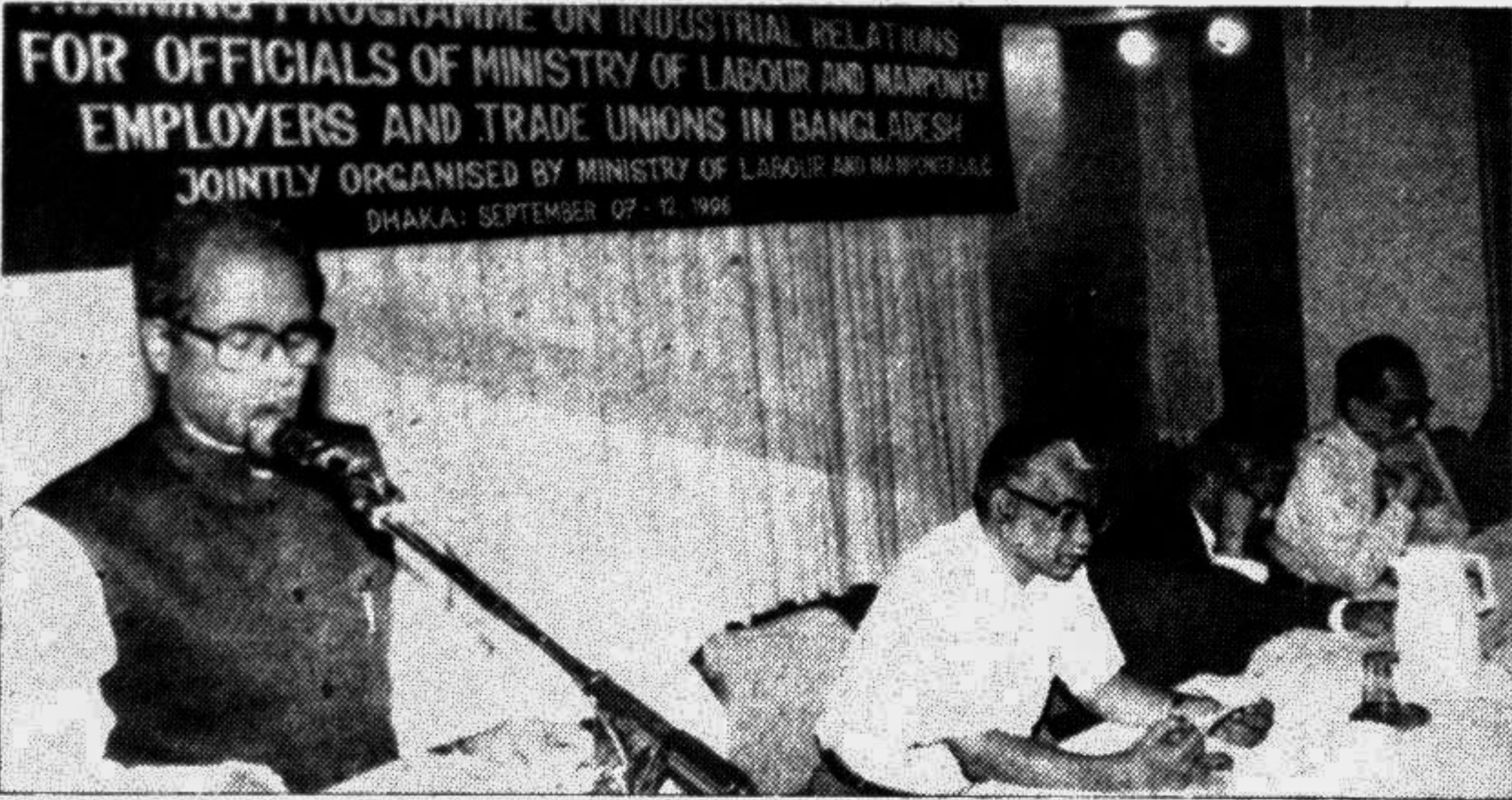
sports facilities for the students — at least for male of them — to spend some of their spare time, which apparently they have plenty. In there in spite of 'slinging guns' at the corridors and 'whiling away some of it in front of the girls' hostels. The indoor building can easily be used as the turf for playing basketball, volleyball, tennis, badminton and other physical exercises. On the other hand soccer, hockey and athletics can be competed by many who used to 'play' all these in their school and college days.

If the students' recollections are correct, there haven't any intra-hall athletics meets during the '90s, which were yearly events even during politically frenzied days of Ershad regime. Basketball is another sorry tale to tell. The DU people have forgot (even the American college leagues on the satellite channels are no help) what the game is all about back in the later part of '80s. And surprisingly enough, the basketball grounds — those in playable shape — are experiencing the company of boys from different colleges of the city.

Added to this, there're two swimming pools that haven't been used for a long, long time. One of these facilities is a portion of the complex beside Curzon Hall, occasionally operated whenever any event of national importance pops up. And the other at TSC which is a prohibited site for the students for reasons unknown. The whirl of athletes and the Yaa-hoo of dribblers in the DU sports arena are the torn strings of a mandolin. What's however consoling 's that a few students of the university are still the heroes in some sports disciplines of the country.



This basketball court of a DU hall is no longer used and is fast heading for total disintegration. — Star photo



MA Mannan, State Minister for Labour and Manpower, addressing the inaugural session of a training programme on 'industrial relations for officials of the Ministry of Labour and Manpower, employers and trade unions in Bangladesh' at a city hotel yesterday. (Story on Page-6) —Star photo

Policy on fisheries sector dev being considered: Roy

State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Satish Chandra Roy called upon all to create awareness among the people to turn pisciculture into a social movement, reports UNB.

The State Minister made the call while addressing a fish fry release programme at Dhanmondi Lake yesterday in observance of Fish Fortnight in the city.

The government is considering to formulate a policy on development of the fisheries sector, the State Minister informed.

He reiterated the present government's all-out cooperation towards the development of fisheries in private sector of the country.

Presided over by DG of Fisheries Department Liaquat Ali, the meeting was also addressed by Mokbul Hossain MP, chairman of BFDC M M Hossain and ammeter angler Anil Chandra Das.

Int'l Literacy Day today

"International Literacy Day" will be observed in the country today, reports BSS.

Thirty-two government and non-government organisations, related to literacy interventions, have jointly chalked out a programme on the occasion, a press release said Thursday.

On the day, a colourful rally will start out from the National Museum at 8 am and end at the Central Shaheed Minar after passing via the Jatiya Press Club. Rabindranath Tagore's playlet "Totakahini" will be staged at the Shaheed Minar after the rally.

The play will also be staged in front of the TSC of Dhaka University at 5 pm today.

District level programmes have also been chalked out to observe the day, and will include seminars and discussions.

Trust for welfare of disabled formed

State Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Children Affairs Dr Mozammel Hossain said yesterday that the government had prepared a work plan to identify the problems and difficulties of the disabled and to ensure their development, reports BSS.

Speaking as chief guest at a wheel-chair distribution ceremony, organised by Bangladesh Disabled Welfare Association at the Academy of Development and Planning, he said that a trust formed at the initiative of the government for the welfare of disabled persons was awaiting implementation.

Dr Hossain expressed the opinion that scope to involve disabled persons in national development activities should be created through imparting education and training. The government, he said, was implementing different programmes for the overall development of the disabled.

Presided over by Khandaker Zahurul Alam, president of the Bangladesh Disabled Welfare Association, the function was addressed, among others, by Secretary to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Abdul Hakim. Charge d'Affairs of the Japanese Embassy Suhi Takahashi and executive director of the association, Abdus Sattar Dulal.

Later the state minister distributed 65 wheel chairs among the disabled. The wheel chairs were donated by Ashahi Shim-bun of Japan.

Nat'l sports policy soon

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader said yesterday that the government was going to announce a national sports policy within the shortest possible time. With this end in view, a national sports conference is underway to priorities the areas on which more emphasis should be laid, he added, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest in the concluding ceremony of a month-long training course at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratishthan (BKSP) at Savar yesterday afternoon.

The minister said BKSP would be the centre for all sport activities. He assured all out cooperation from the government for this end.

Marking the discontinuity in the progress of sports arena of the country, the minister advocated to introduce sports science in the BKSP.

Workshop on healthy city project held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 7: A follow-up workshop on 'Healthy City Project' was held at the Chittagong City Corporation auditorium here today, reports BSS.

The workshop, presided over by chief executive of the corporation and member-secretary of 'healthy city project', MA Wahhab, was addressed, among others, by City Mayor ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury, World Health Organisation representative in Bangladesh Dr Harjotanao, and corporation chief engineer Rezaul Amin Khan.

The mayor termed the WHO as a partner in development and said, the main objective of the 'healthy city project' is not only development of health services, but also improvement of environmental infrastructure, sanitation, drainage and slum mother and child health care.

The mayor said, to implement the 'healthy city project' a coordination council and seven task forces have been formed and as part of the pilot project programme, Jamal Khan Ward has been undertaken as a model of healthy ward of the corporation.

WDB refutes allegations

The Water Development Board (WDB) yesterday refuted the allegations made in a section of national dailies regarding breaches on the Rajshahi Town Protection Embankment, reports UNB.

Some dailies published news items stating that breaches have developed on the Rajshahi Town Protection Embankment, and flood waters have been entering into the city through the embankment and blamed the WDB for not taking appropriate measures regarding this.

In a rejoinder issued by the Board said that the news items regarding this, published in the news papers, are baseless and false.

It said no breaches had developed on the embankment and flood waters could not enter into the city as the embankment was strong enough to contain the current flood.

The embankment worked smoothly during the 1987 flood, which was much more severe than the current flood, the release said adding that the embankment and its groynes were repaired last year at a cost of Tk 3 crore.

Meanwhile, Member (O&M) of WDB has visited the embankment site following the reports and expressed his satisfaction not finding any breach on the embankment.

What's on today . . .

Crime Reporters' Assoc workshop: Bangladesh Crime Reporters' Association and Nari Progati Sangha have jointly organised a three-day workshop on 'Human Rights, Women Issue and Journalism'. Abdul Matin Khasru, State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs will inaugurate the workshop. Venue: Nari Progati Sangha Office, House 255, Road 19, Dhanmondi. Time: 9 am.

UNAB symposium: The United Nations Association of Bangladesh will hold a symposium on the occasion of 'International Literacy Day'. Venue: UNAB office, Dilkusha. Time: 5 pm.

Rapport training course: A three-week training course on 'Trade Unionism' for the trade union representatives will begin. M Mosharruf Hossain, managing director, Papport Bangladesh Limited will inaugurate the course. Venue: 98 Malibagh. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka: The regular meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Officers Club, Bally Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

Joy Bangla Sangkritik Oikya Jote: An emergency meeting of the Jote will be held. Venue: 23, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 10 am.

Weather

Light rain likely

Light rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Day temperature is like to remain nearly unchanged across the country.

Country's highest temperature was recorded 32.8 degree Celsius at Rajshahi and Jessore and the lowest 23.4 degrees at Sylhet yesterday.

The sun sets today at 6:10 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:43 am.

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